

History of  
Blue Ridge Baptist Association  
50 Years — 1929-1979





## FOREWARD

It is a privilege to write history, because it is something that has already happened. Especially is it a thrill to write about the work of the Kingdom of God and His Churches on earth.

This task is a special joy to me as I am a native of the foothills of the Blue Ridge Mountains. I was born in the little town of Old Fort at the foot of the mountains and grew up in East Marion Mill Village where I could look upon the beautiful Blue Ridge Mountains the first thing every morning and watch the sun set over the mountains every evening.

My special thanks to the History Committee: Millie Kanipe, Leolian Corbett, Doris Hill, Jesse Price, and A.U. Wall for their interest and help in the writing of this history.

I shall always be grateful to Shirley McEntire, the Office Secretary, for the many hours she spent in typing and compiling the manuscript; and to Barbara Bullman who also assisted in typing; also to Oren W. Greene for his contribution in reproducing and printing the many pictures for this history.

I trust your reading of this history will be just one-half as thrilling to you as it has been to me to write it.

Millard F. Hall,  
Historian



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**BLUE RIDGE BAPTIST ASSOCIATIONAL CENTER**  
*Erected and Dedicated 1974*



**DONALD H. WILSON**  
*Director of Missions*



**MRS. SHIRLEY McENTIRE**  
*Office Secretary*



**R. WILLIS ABERNETHY**  
*Music Director*



MR. & MRS. M. D. LEDBETTER

We are grateful to Mr. and Mrs. M.D. Ledbetter for their generous gift of the land and the building that houses our Blue Ridge Associational Center.

Mason Dewitt Ledbetter was born in McDowell County, February 13, 1900. Mrs. Lula Mae Gibbs Ledbetter was born in McDowell County, July 30, 1903. Mr. Ledbetter attended school at Marion Elementary and Greenlee Schools. Mrs. Ledbetter attended Pleasant Gardens School and Round Hill Academy. She taught school at Sugar Hill. Mr. Ledbetter worked for Standard Oil Company from 1920 until 1939, when he went into private business on East Court Street in Marion where his business has become a success, and remains there until today.

In 1909 Mr. Ledbetter joined Marion First Baptist Church. He taught Sunday School for some 40 years, and served as Deacon, Chairman of the building committee. He taught Sunday School at North Marion Mission, which is now Grandview Baptist Church, and became a Charter Member and has served as Deacon and Treasurer. He is also an active Gideon in Marion Camp that he helped organize and has served as President.

Mrs. Ledbetter was a member of Carsons Chapel Methodist when she was young; after marriage she was baptized into the fellowship of Marion First Baptist Church, where she has taught in the Junior Department for thirty-five years.

The Ledbetters have one son, Bill, and four grandsons. Bill now manages the M.D. Ledbetter Oil Company. The Ledbetters have traveled extensively to World Fairs in Chicago and Osaka, Japan, The Baptist World Alliance in Tokyo, and continued on a 35 day trip around the world; also to the Holy Land.

At the time of marriage the Ledbetters established a Christian home and have continued it for these past fifty-four years. They have been generous in their gifts to the churches in McDowell County.

## THE PLACE OF THIS HISTORY

In the foothills of the beautiful Blue Ridge Mountains of Western North Carolina, where once was the westernmost post of the white man's settlements, with a fort in the place where the town of Old Fort is now located; first a fort for the Catawba Indians as protection against the attacks of the Cherokees, and later a white man's fort against the Cherokee Indians, and, near the home of the world famous Evangelist, Billy Graham, and the wonderful Ridgecrest Baptist Conference Center, lies the county of McDowell. In this county, and in the nearby county of Buncombe, forty-two wonderful Missionary Baptist Churches are located which make up the Blue Ridge Baptist Association.

This year marks the fifty years that these churches have worked together to preach the Gospel at home and around the world through our great Missionary program, and to minister to the needs of the whole man.

Many of these churches were organized in the early and late eighteen hundreds, Bethel being the oldest, organized near 1800, and several have come into existence since the turn of the century, and some since the organization of the association in 1929.

The short histories of our churches that appear in this history do not tell all the story of the prayers, struggles, and work of the men and women of God over these years. Souls have been won to Jesus Christ, Christian homes have been established, men and women have been called into greater Christian service, because of these churches. Many, in times of joy and of sorrow, have been ministered unto during these years and we have had a part in sending, praying for, and supporting our missionaries around the world; also in helping to care for needy children and our older people and our younger people in their time of need.

## **GREEN RIVER—OUR MOTHER ASSOCIATION**

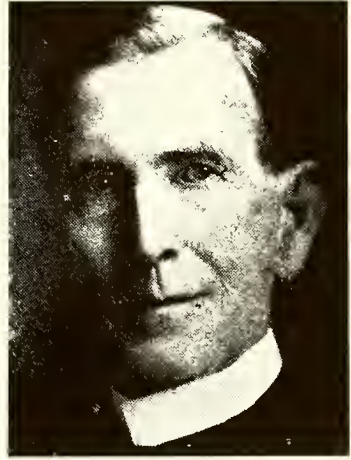
Green River was organized in 1840 from a part of the Broad River Association that was organized in 1800. At this time, we are told, there were only three Baptist Churches in McDowell County: Bethel, Bethlehem and New Bethany (now Old Fort First Baptist).

In 1852 the Green River Association included all the territory of Polk, Rutherford, and McDowell Counties. It was composed of twenty-nine churches with a membership of 1,667. There were no Sunday Schools, no Missionary Societies, no B.Y.P.U. Total contributions were \$28.31.

J.M. Webb was the first moderator and J.C. Grayson was the first clerk.

In 1890 a number of churches from Polk and Rutherford Counties withdrew to help organize the Sandy Run Association.

The Rev. C.B. Justice was a moving influence in the Green River Association and was a Missionary to McDowell County. A collection of \$100.00 was given to him by the association for the work he was doing. Elder Justice was born in Henderson County in 1836, died in 1909, being 73 years old. He first joined the Providence Church in the Union Association. This church became the Mountain Creek Baptist Church. He later joined Rutherfordton First, where he was later to become the pastor and served for forty years. He was married to Miss Elizabeth Higgins of McDowell County. Eleven children were born to them. He was one of the founders of Round Hill Academy. Elder Justice baptized Elder G.P. Bostic, who became a Missionary to China, into the fellowship of Floyd's Creek Church. C.B. Justice was the first pastor of Marion First Baptist Church in 1863.



**REV. C.B. JUSTICE**

In the minutes of Green River Association, 1864, concerning the meeting in the Dysartsville Meeting House, September 30, 1864, we find this report: "The church at Bethel says that, in consequence of the war, the hardness of times, and large amount of tax to pay, some of the members of the church have had their fruit distilled, believing that they could not support their families, and pay their tax without it, and now ask this association for advice in the premises; in answer to which we say distilling, vending and drinking spiritous liquors is the greatest evil the churches have to contend with, therefore we advise that church to exclude those members unless they abandon the practice entirely."

Also the following report on "Temperance" was given by J.M. Whiteside, Chairman of this committee: "After a careful examination of all the churches we find that nearly all of them have some members that have made some spirits for medicine; but we are glad to find that most of the churches are endeavoring to carry out the resolution as passed in Sixty-three."

## PIONEER PREACHERS

Some of the preachers from Green River Association and McDowell County that had a part in organizing churches and the Blue Ridge Association: D.J. Hunt, B.B. Harris, C.B. Justice, A.B. Mashburn, A.P. Sorrels, J.C. Sorrels, D.P. Loudermilk, W.F. McMahan, Hogan Justice, and many others, and layman not a few. Perminster Morgan came to McDowell County around 1800 and organized Bethel Baptist Church, the oldest Baptist Church in McDowell County.

## ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING OF THE BLUE RIDGE ASSOCIATION

The Blue Ridge Baptist Association came into existence on Tuesday, October 1, 1929, when churches of McDowell County met at the First Baptist Church in Marion for the purpose of organizing a new association. Letters from Green River, the Mother Association, were presented.

Sitting as a Presbytery were the following Ministers: D.J. Hunt, R.L. Shirley, W.R. Beach, John Arch McMillian, W.M. Gilmore. These men received the letters and by vote of the body the Blue Ridge Association was duly organized. The following 21 churches brought letters and were printed in the first minutes in 1929: Bethlehem, Brookside, Chapel Hill, Cherry Springs, Clear Creek, Clinchfield, Cross Mill, Dysartsville, East Marion, Garden Creek, Greenlee, Harmony Grove, Marion First, Nebo, North Cove, Old Fort, Peppers Creek, Sunnyvale, Turkey Cove, Woodlawn and Zion Hill.

The following officers were elected: Moderator, W.T. Morgan, Marion; Vice-Moderator, C.L. Taylor, Old Fort; Clerk, A.A. Walker, Marion; Assistant Clerk, Leroy Silver, Marion; Treasurer, H.R. Early, Old Fort; Historian, W.R. Burleson, Marion.

Moderator, W.T. Morgan, appointed two committees, one to examine the credentials of churches wishing admittance, consisting of C.L. Taylor, G.G. Pendergrass, E.W. Parker and a committee to present a Constitution consisting of A.A. Walker, W.F. McMahan, J.A. Jimerson. J.A. Jimerson read to the assembly the Constitution which was adopted. Seeing the need for a Covenant, it was voted to adopt the Covenant used by the Green River Association.

As the matter of a name, two names were presented for a vote: McDowell County and Blue Ridge. Blue Ridge won unanimously.

A Nominating Committee was appointed consisting of W.H. Taylor, J.L. Nichols, G.B. Woody, Roy Burleson, J.L. Martin.

Secretary, W.M. Gilmore presented the matter of the Cooperative Program.

A.A. Walker was appointed to bear the greetings of the Blue Ridge Association to the Green River Association at the session meeting with Mt. Vernon.

A very helpful address was made by D.J. Hunt of the Mother Association to the new association.

Mrs. J.L. Morgan gave a report on the woman's work following the call meeting held just after lunch in the Sunday School Department of the church. The following officers were elected: President, Mrs. J.L. Morgan, Marion; Vice-President, Mrs. R.A. Hughes, Old Fort; Secretary, Mrs. B.Y. Allison, Old Fort; Personal Service Chairman, Mrs. A.F. Wagner, Marion. The next meeting of the W.M.U. was to be at Nebo.

A motion was presented by W.T. Morgan and carried that the Association meet on each fifth Sunday for a service to be planned by the Executive Committee.

C.L. Taylor, P.D. Mangum, and A.A. Walker were appointed to apply to the State Convention at Shelby for admittance of the Blue Ridge Association.

C.E. Gilliam reported for the Resolution Committee in his most genial way three resolutions, one in appreciation of the work of the clerk, another in appreciation of the entertainment of the Marion First Church, and yet another in appreciation of the helpfulness of the state workers and visitors who did so much to make the first session a success.

In 1929 the total amount paid to all pastors of 21 churches for a year was \$7,493.17. Total gifts by churches: \$17,812.01, total gifts to Cooperative Program: \$931.33, total gifts to Missions: \$2,737.14 and total gifts for all purposes: \$20,549.15.

## *The First Executive Committee*

The first Executive Committee consisted of the following people: W.L. Morgan, Chairman; J.L. Lackey, R.A. Lonon, W.H. Taylor, R.O. Wilson, G.B. Woody, W.R. Chambers, C.L. Taylor, P.D. Mangum, H.H. Justice, J.L. Martin, W.F. McMahan, and A.A. Walker.

## *THE COVENANT*

The Covenant of the Blue Ridge Association was adopted in 1929 as follows:

Article 1. We believe in one only and true God, and that there are three persons in the Godhead: The Father, The Son, and The Holy Ghost, and these are one in substance and equal in power and glory.

Article 2. We believe the Scriptures of Old and New Testaments are the Word of God, and the only rule of faith and practice.

Article 3. We believe in the doctrine of original sin.

Article 4. We believe in man's impotency to recover himself from the fallen state he is in by his own free will and ability.

Article 5. We believe that sinners are justified in the sight of God only through the imputed righteousness of Jesus Christ.

Article 6. We believe the saints shall persevere in grace, and that they never shall finally fall away.

Article 7. We believe that Baptism and the Lord's Supper are ordinances instituted by Christ, and that true believers are the only proper subjects thereof.

Article 8. We believe that immersion is the only Scriptural mode of Baptism.

Article 9. We believe that no person has a right to administer the ordinances but such as are regularly called and qualified thereto.

Article 10. We believe in the resurrection of the dead, and a general judgement; that the punishment of the wicked shall be everlasting and the joys of the righteous eternal.

Article 11. We, the members of the Blue Ridge Baptist Association, agreeing to the Articles of Faith, do, for and behalf of the churches which we represent, covenant and agree and give ourselves up to each other in church and Christian fellowship, in order to keep up the unity of the spirit in the bonds of peace and to assist each other in all matters of distress and to pray for each other's prosperity.

## *THE CONSTITUTION*

The Constitution as follows was adopted in 1929:

### *Name*

1. This body shall be known as the Blue Ridge Baptist Association.

### *Object*

2. The general object of this association shall be the carrying out of the great Commission, Matthew 28:19-20. Detailed objectives shall be left in the hands of the Executive Committee.

### *Membership and Representation*

3. This Association shall be composed of such Missionary Baptist Churches as shall organize same, and as shall from time to time be received.

The churches shall be represented by delegates selected by same upon the following numerical basis. Churches with a hundred members or less shall be entitled to two delegates with one additional for each hundred members or fractional part thereof, provided no church shall have more than five delegates. Ordained ministers and officers of this association shall be delegates ex-officio.

### *Officers*

4. The officers of this association shall be a Moderator, Vice-Moderator, Treasurer, Historian, and a Clerk, elected at each annual session.

There shall be an Executive Committee of six laymen and six ministers together with the Moderator who shall always be the Chairman of this committee, elected at each annual session. This committee shall have the right to determine all matters coming before it by a majority vote of members present after personal notice from the Moderator, or the member of the committee calling the meeting, provided that any member of the committee may at any time call a meeting of the committee to reconsider or to consider anew any matter upon the failure of the Moderator to call a meeting of the committee at the request of any member.

### *Time of Meeting*

5. This Association shall meet annually on the Tuesday before the first Sunday in each October, subject to change by the Executive Committee if conditions demand.

### *Amendments*

6. This constitution may be amended at any regular session by a two-thirds vote of the delegates present.

## **HISTORICAL TABLE**

		<i>PLACE</i>	<i>MODERATOR</i>	<i>CLERK</i>	<i>PREACHER</i>
1	1929	Marion, First	W.T. Morgan	A.A. Walker	P.D. Mangum
2	1930	Old Fort	P.D. Mangum	E.J. Ingle	C.J. Taylor
3	1931	Dysartsville	B.F. Bray	E.J. Ingle	E.J. Ingle
4	1932	Harmony Grove	B.F. Bray	E.J. Ingle	M.V. Snipes
5	1933	Greenlee	B.F. Bray	M.B. Patton	W.C. Francis
6	1934	East Marion	G.A. Condrey	M.B. Patton	R.L. Smith
7	1935	Cherry Springs	F.E. May	M.B. Patton	W.F. McMahan
8	1936	Cross Mill	R.L. Smith	M.B. Patton	R.L. Crawford
9	1937	Clear Creek	W.R. Chambers	R.O. Wilson	D.W. Hodges
10	1938	Bethlehem	W.R. Chambers	R.L. Smith	D.C. Wesson
11	1939	Garden Creek	W.R. Chambers	A.H. Mitchell	M.H. Kendall
12	1940	Bethel	W.R. Chambers	M.W. Gordon	W.E. Petit
13	1941	Clinchfield	W.R. Chambers	M.W. Gordon	J.H. Henline
14	1942	Woodlawn	W.R. Chambers	E.W. Parker	W.F. McMahan
15	1943	Garden Creek	W.R. Chambers	R.L. Smith	J.P. Baker
16	1944	Nebo	W.R. Chambers	R.L. Smith	R.J. Corbett
17	1945	Marion First	W.R. Chambers	R.L. Smith	W.E. Abrams
18	1946	Harmony Grove	W.R. Chambers	R.L. Smith	E. Roustio
		Yancey Street			C.C. Parker
19	1947	Clear Creek	W.R. Chambers	P.C. Stokes	M.O. Owens, Jr.
		Greenlee			P.C. Stokes
20	1948	Cherry Springs	W.R. Chambers	P.C. Stokes	C.C. Cross
		West Court			W.M. Dameron
21	1949	Bethel	W.R. Chambers	Carson Brittian	M.F. Hall
		East Marion			Carson Brittian
22	1950	West Marion	W.R. Chambers	H.W. Stough	J.G. Hicks
		Cross Mill			W.M. Dameron
23	1951	Chapel Hill	W.R. Chambers	H.W. Stough	H.W. Stough
		Hankins			M.F. Hall
24	1952	Old Fort	W.R. Chambers	H.R. Wilkerson	G. Colvard
		Laurel Hill			Ray F. Long
25	1953	Marion First	J.G. Hicks	H.R. Wilkerson	R.M. Strickland
		West Court			C.C. Parker
		Bethlehem			M.F. Hall
26	1954	Cross Mill	J.G. Hicks	H.R. Wilkerson	Neils Larsen
		Nebo			Perry Crouch
		East Marion			Donald Crouch
27	1955	Cherry Springs	N.H. Larsen	H.R. Early	Furman Harvey
		Faith			Fritz Hemphill
		Clinchfield			Clifton Cooper
28	1956	West Court	N.H. Larsen	Charles Estep	Terry Thorpe
		Harmony Grove			Julian Hopkins
		Chapel Hill			Charles Hamrick

		PLACE	MODERATOR	CLERK	PREACHER
29	1957	Bethlehem Calvary West Marion	B.M. Strickland	H.R. Wilkerson	J.P. Dubose, Jr.  R.M. Heavener
30	1958	Cross Mill Greenlee Zion Hill	B.M. Strickland	M.F. Hall	E.P. Bennett
31	1959	Marion, First Glenwood Clinchfield	J.P. Dubose, Jr.	J.F. Parker	James Kisselburg Earl Duncan M.O. Owens Alvin Leonard
32	1960	Garden Creek Nebo Pleasant Gardens	J.P. Dubose, Jr.	Mrs. J.A. Bright	J.G. Robinson Dr. Carl Bates B.M. Strickland
33	1961	Old Fort, First Marion, First East Marion	E.P. Bennett	Mrs. J.A. Bright	O.D. Hefner Dr. E.L. Spivey R.M. Heavener
34	1962	Nebo Pleasant Gardens Cherry Springs	E.P. Bennett	Mrs. J.A. Bright	L.W. Cain Fritz Hemphill W.M. Belcher
35	1963	Marion, First East Marion Chapel Hill	Olin D. Hefner	L.W. Cain	H.L. Sprinkle Tom Green R.L. Crawford
36	1964	Glenwood Bethel Vein Mountain	Olin D. Hefner	L.W. Cain	Frank Hawkins E.V. Plemmons W.F. Payne
37	1965	Clinchfield Greenlee Turkey Cove	L.W. Cain	Henry Powell	J.D. Hobbs, Jr. Alex Booth Hall Hollifield
38	1966	Nebo, First Bethlehem	L.W. Cain	Henry Powell	Terry Thorpe Paul Coyle
39	1967	Cross Memorial Greenlee	W.F. Payne	Henry Powell	Bill Lamb Blaine Grose
40	1968	Sugar Hill Bethel	Sumter West	Henry Powell	Patrick Forbes James Ballard
41	1969	Pleasant Gardens Cherry Springs Dysartsville	Blaine Grose	Henry Powell	Phate McSwain Tim Horltdt
42	1970	Marion, First Turkey Cove	Blaine Grose	Mrs. C.W. Morgan, Jr.	Don McIntyre
43	1971	Harmony Grove Glenwood	M.F. Hall	Mrs. C.W. Morgan, Jr.	Roy Collins, Sr. Terry Thorpe
44	1972	Grandview Pleasant Gardens	M.F. Hall	Mrs. C.W. Morgan, Jr.	C.C. Parker Allen McKinney
45	1973	Bethlehem Old Fort, First	W.C. Keller	Mrs. Harold Owens	Wm. Harold Owens
46	1974	East Marion Garden Creek	W.C. Keller	Mrs. Ken Rhinehardt, Jr.	Ralph Gouge
47	1975	Clinchfield Vein Mountain	Terry Thorpe	Mrs. Ken Rhinehardt, Jr.	Steve Clark
48	1976	Glenwood Nebo, First	Terry Thorpe	Mrs. Ken Rhinehardt, Jr.	John Bowden
49	1977	Hankins Pleasant Gardens	John Bowden Cecil Lovelace	Mrs. William J. Deaton	Ray Hooper
50	1978	Zion Hill West Marion	Cecil Lovelace	Mrs. William J. Deaton	Allen McKinney

## **MODERATORS WHO HAVE SERVED THE BLUE RIDGE ASSOCIATION 1929 — 1979**



**WILLIAM THEODORE MORGAN**  
*Moderator 1929-1930*

William Theodore Morgan was born January 30, 1871, in the Otter Creek section of Rutherford County, and died November 12, 1939. He was a son of A.F. and Sophie Morgan, and a descendant of the Reverend Perminter Morgan, noted pioneer Baptist preacher. Mr. Morgan was married to Mary Alford of Tallahassie, Florida. They had two children.

He received his education in Rutherford County Schools and old Rutherford College. He studied law under Alfonso C. Avery, a member of the Supreme Court of North Carolina. Mr. Morgan practiced law in Morganton, McDowell and adjoining counties for more than 40 years. He was a loyal member of First Baptist Church of Marion and was a great help in organizing the Blue Ridge Baptist Association, and became it's first Moderator.

**P.E. MANGUM**  
*Moderator 1930-1931*

Reverend Pearl Damon Mangum was born August 12, 1880 at Petra Mills, North Carolina. He died October 28, 1951 at Excelsior Springs, Missouri. He was married in 1910 to Estelle Williams of Knoxville, Tennessee. They had three children.

He received his B.A. from Wake Forest College and Graduate Degree from Colgate-Rochester Divinity School, Rochester, New York. Mr. Mangum served as Pastor at First Baptist of Marion from 1925-1931. Other pastorates include Bellville, Illinois; Paris, Missouri; Charleston, Missouri; Excelsior Springs, Missouri.

He served in World War I in France, Italy and Greece. He served as U.S. Army Chaplin, Fort Meade, South Dakota.





**DR. B.F. BRAY**  
*Moderator 1931-1933*

Benjamin Franklin Bray was born in Camden County, N.C. November 14, 1879. He died January 4, 1952. Dr. Bray served in the Ministry for 45 years. He was a graduate of Wake Forest College, and Crozer Seminary in Chester, Pennsylvania.

During his ministry he served churches in New Jersey, Maryland, Pennsylvania, Missouri, Virginia and North Carolina. The last church he pastored was First Baptist Church of Marion, N.C. where he served for thirteen years.

**G.A. CONDREY**  
*Moderator 1934*

G.A. Condrey of McDowell County was Vice-Moderator from 1944-1948 and served as Pastor of the following churches in McDowell County: Zion Hill, North Cove, Peppers Creek, Sunny Grove, and Sunny Vale. He attended every session of the Association as long as he lived.



**F.E. MAY**  
*Moderator 1935*

(Picture not available)

F.E. May was a layman who was a member of First Baptist Church of Old Fort.



**R.L. SMITH**  
*Moderator 1936*

R.L. Smith was born in Stanley, N.C. on June 29, 1889. He attended South Fork Institute, Mars Hill College, Wake Forest College, South Western Seminary and Fruitland Bible Institute.

He has served as pastor of his home church, Bruington Memorial Church of Stanley, N.C. Here he baptized his mother, a sister and her only son. He served Old Fort First and Glenwood in the Blue Ridge Association and at Padgetts Creek, Union Association. He was an approved worker in Schools of Missions by the Home Mission Board.

**W.R. CHAMBERS**  
*Moderator 1937-1953*

W.R. Chambers served as Moderator longer than any other person, having served for 16 years.

Dr. William Roy Chambers was born in Madison County February 13, 1891, the son of E. Baxter and Leona Brigman Chambers. His wife was Mrs. Faye Morgan Chambers. He was a graduate of Mars Hill College, Wake Forest University, and remained at Wake Forest to study law and did graduate work at Columbia University in New York.

Mr. Chambers served in World War I and practiced law in Marion from after the War until his death in 1974. He was one of the organizers and president of the Marion Industrial Bank, which is now North Carolina National Bank, and also as a Director. Mr. Chambers was also Director of The First National Bank of Marion, now First Union National Bank of North Carolina. He was affiliated with the McDowell Savings and Loan, being Vice-President, Board Member and it's attorney.

For four years he was a public school principal in Buncombe County, 25 years a farmer and cattleman, and for more than 20 years as Director and Attorney for Clinchfield Manufacturing Company.

Mr. Chambers was a faithful member of Marion First Baptist Church, where he served as Deacon and Chairman for more than 20 years. He was voted Deacon for Life in 1972. He also taught Sunday School and served on many committees.

He belonged to the State, County, and National Bar Association, The North Carolina Literary and Historical Society, American Legion, Masonic Order, the Marion Lake Club, Trustee of the North Carolina Baptist Hospital.

Mr. Chambers had two daughters: Mrs. James W. Blackburn, Jr. and Mrs. Jerry Willis; and five grandchildren.





**JOHN GRASON HICKS**  
*Moderator 1953-1954*

John G. Hicks was born in Cleveland County, North Carolina, February 16, 1917. He is a graduate of Gardner-Webb College, Boiling Springs; Wake Forest University, Winston-Salem, North Carolina; and Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, Kentucky. He is married to the former Martha Eller of Salisbury, N.C. They have three children. He pastored First Baptist Church, Liberty, N.C. 1944-45; Oakdale Baptist Church, Spencer, N.C., 1945-47; Minister of Education, Stallings Memorial Baptist Church, Salisbury, N.C., 1947-48; Pastor at Bruner's Chapel Baptist Church, Harrodsburg, Ky., 1948-49; Pastor at First Baptist Church, Old Fort, N.C., 1949-55; Mon Aetna Baptist Church, Union, S.C., 1955-64; (two missions were started which grew into churches) Westwood Baptist Church, Asheville, N.C., 1964-1972. Since 1972 Hicks has served as Director of Missions, Buncombe Baptist Association, Asheville, N.C.

**NEILS H. LARSEN**  
*Moderator 1955-56*

Neils H. Larsen served as Moderator in the Blue Ridge Association in 1955-1956 and as pastor of Clinchfield Baptist Church in this association from 1952-1959. All of his pastorates for the past 33 years have been in Western North Carolina. He pastored Riverside Baptist Church, Asheville, 1945-1952; Ridgecrest Church 1959-1960; Central Baptist Church, Spruce Pine, 1960-1967; Enka Baptist Church, Enka, N.C., 1967-1975. He came to Ridgecrest Church for the second time in 1975 and is still serving there as pastor.



**BROUGHTON M. STRICKLAND**  
*Moderator 1957-1958*

Broughton M. Strickland served as Moderator in the Blue Ridge Association in 1957-1958. He was pastor of Cross Memorial Baptist Church from 1952-1966. For eight years he served as Chairman of Evangelism in the Blue Ridge Association and was very active in Boy Scout work during this time. He also served as President of the Pastor's Conference. He came to Marion from Sulphur Springs Church in Rutherford County and from Marion went to Mt. Pleasant Church in Cleveland County. Other churches he pastored were Prospect in Cleveland County, Temple at Henrietta, Floyds Creek, Goodes Creek, Silver Creek in Polk County, Sandy Springs and Broad River in Sandy Run.



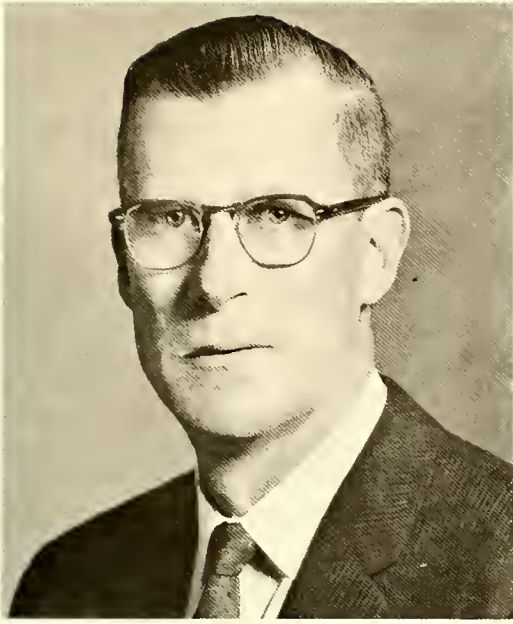
**JOSEPH P. DUBOSE, JR.**  
*Moderator 1959-1960*

Joseph P. DuBose, Jr. was born in Orangeburg, S.C. in 1925. He grew up in First Baptist Church of Orangeburg, S.C. where he accepted Christ. He was ordained to the gospel ministry July 16, 1950. He and his wife, Sybil M. DuBose, have three sons: Danny, Steve, and Johnny.

He attended The Citadel, Charleston, South Carolina; Colby College, Waterville, Maine; The University of South Carolina, Columbia, S.C. His Seminary Training included Southern Baptist Seminary, Louisville, Kentucky, B.D., 1953; Master of Theology, 1956; Doctor of Ministry work completed at Southern Baptist Seminary, May, 1975.

Mr. DuBose served as Pastor of Tea Creek Baptist Church, Lovett, Indiana 1953-1954; Associate Pastor, First Baptist Church, Asheville, North Carolina 1954-1956; Pastor of First Baptist Church, Marion, N.C. 1956-1963; Pastor of East Hill Baptist Church, Pensacola, Florida 1963-1977. He became President of Baptist Bible Institute in Graceville, Florida in June 1977 where he is still serving at the present.





**EDWARD PHIFER BENNETT**  
*Moderator 1961-1962*

Edward Phifer Bennett was born in Burke County, North Carolina. He is a graduate of Drexel School and Gardner-Webb College. He is married to the former Tellis Cannon and they have two daughters, Betty Bennett Kelley and Vanda L. Bennett Tate. His home church is Pleasant View, Morganton. While a member there he was a Deacon, Sunday School Superintendent, Training Union Director. He was licensed to preach in 1936 and ordained in 1937. He served as Moderator of Catawba River Association for five years and pastored ten different churches in Catawba River Association. The churches pastored in Catawba River were: North Morganton, Mount Olive, Mountain View, Mount Home, Bethel, Smyrna, Pleasant Ridge, Calvin Heights, High Peak, Grandview. Rev. Bennett moved to McDowell

County and was pastor of Pleasant Gardens Baptist Church for nine years. He served as Vice-Moderator in 1959-1960 and Moderator 1961-1962 of the Blue Ridge Association. He served as President of the Pastor's Conference and several other offices. In Caldwell Association he was pastor of Miller Hill Church, and also Union Grove Church in his early ministry.

**OLIN D. HEFNER**  
*Moderator 1963-1964*

Olin D. Hefner served as Moderator of the Blue Ridge Baptist Association in 1963-1964. He is married to Mildred Marie Young and has one daughter, Gwendolyn Marie Wells, who lives in Columbia, S.C. He attended Public Schools in Mitchell County, N.C., graduated from high school in 1942. He is a graduate of N.C. State University with a B.S. in Horticulture, graduated from Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary, Wake Forest, N.C. in 1958. Churches served as pastor: Staley Baptist Church, Staley, N.C., 1955-1957; Icard Baptist Church, Icard, N.C. 1957-1959; Clinchfield Baptist Church, Marion, N.C. 1959-1966; Cedar Hills Baptist Church, Jacksonville, Florida, 1966-1970; Florence Baptist Church, Forest City, N.C.



1970-1978. Presently he is pastor of First Baptist Church, Red Springs, N.C.

He served on the General Board, Baptist State Convention of N.C. 1962-1965; Program Chairman, Jacksonville Baptist Association, 1968; Moderator, Sandy Run Baptist Association, Forest City, N.C. 1973-1974; Trustee, Gardner-Webb College, 1974-1978; Member Presidential Search Committee, Gardner-Webb College, 1976; Member of Executive Committee and Chairman of Curriculum Committee, Gardner-Webb College, 1975; Vice-President, Thermal Belt Baptist Youth Shelter, Forest City, 1974.

**L.W. CAIN**  
*Moderator 1965-1966*

(Picture not available)

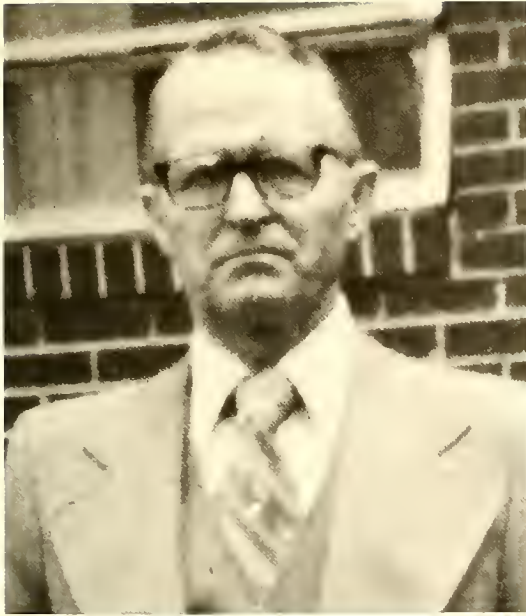
L.W. Cain was born and reared in Eastern North Carolina. He served as Public School Teacher and for a number of years as Principal of Casar High School in Cleveland County. He served as Chaplain in the U.S. Army during World War II in 1941-1946 and served in the Korean War 1949-1954. He attended Wake Forest College and Southern Baptist Seminary.

Rev. Cain has pastored the following churches: Mt. Olive (two pastorates), Fairview, Glen Alpine (two pastorates), Hopewell, Carpenter's Grove, East Marion, and Chapel Hill in the Blue Ridge Association, and Temple Baptist Church. He also taught at Fruitland Baptist Bible Institute. Since retirement he has served the following churches as Interim Pastor: Faith, Bessemer City; Nebo, Bethel, East Marion in the Blue Ridge Association; Silver Chapel, Pleasant Ridge, Mt. Lebanon, Glen Alpine, Camp Creek and Fairview. He served as Clerk of the Blue Ridge Association in 1963-1964.

**WALTER F. PAYNE, SR.**  
*Moderator 1966-1967*

Walter F. Payne, Sr. was born February 9, 1925 in Kings Mountain, North Carolina. He is married to Mrs. Sue Barrette Payne. They have two children, Wanda and Walter. He was licensed in 1950 by the Second Baptist Church in Kings Mountain; later called and ordained by Faith Baptist Church in the same city. He was educated at Gardner-Webb and Limestone Colleges and Southeastern Seminary. He has served as pastor at Faith Church of Kings Mountain, Glenwood of McDowell County and Fairview of Gastonia, his current pastorate.





## **SUMTER WEST**

*Moderator 1968*

Sumter West was born and reared in Spartanburg County, S.C., educated in the county schools and North Greenville Junior College and the extension studies of Southern Baptist Seminary. He was ordained in 1961 by the Apalache Baptist Church of Greer, S.C. He has served the following churches: Bethel Baptist Church, Blue Ridge Association, 7½ years; Piney Knob Baptist Church, Green River Association, 5½ years. He is now serving Laurel Springs Baptist Church, Three Forks Association in Boone, N.C. He has been at Laurel Springs for four years.

## **BLAINE H. GROSE**

*Moderator 1969-1970*

Blaine H. Grose is a native of Statesville, N.C. and graduated from Troutman High School, Louisiana College, and New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary.

He served several churches as Associate Pastor and Minister of Music, and has served the following churches as pastor: Heath Springs Baptist Church, Heath Springs, S.C. for six years; Malvern Hill Baptist Church, Camden, S.C., for 2½ years; and Cross Memorial Baptist Church, Marion, N.C. for more than 12 years. He served four years (1974-1977) on the General Board of the N.C. Baptist State Convention.

Other than Moderator of the Blue Ridge Association, Rev. Grose served on various committees and was active in the Blue Ridge Minister's Conference.

He was married in 1948 to Beatrice Maddox Grose (deceased) and they have one daughter, Mrs. Stephen Jolly (Donna) and two sons, David and Philip. He is presently married to Mrs. Bobbie Martin Grose. He has one stepson, Steven Martin.





**MILLARD F. HALL**  
*Moderator 1971-1972*

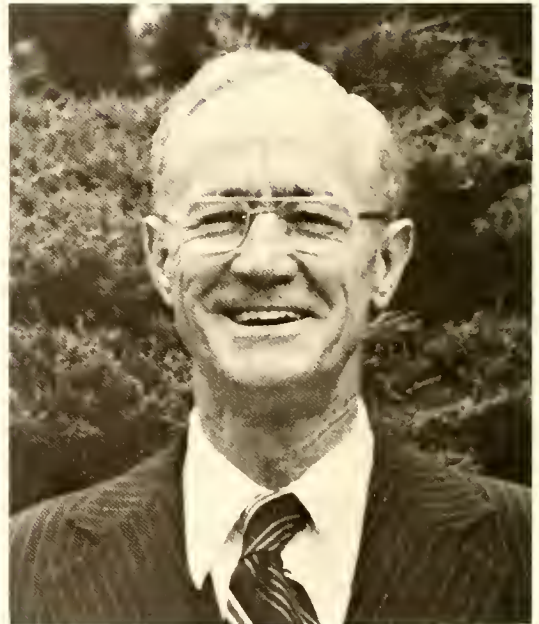
Millard Frank Hall was born on September 10, 1918 in Old Fort, N.C., the fifth child of C.C. Hall and Nanny Walker Hall.

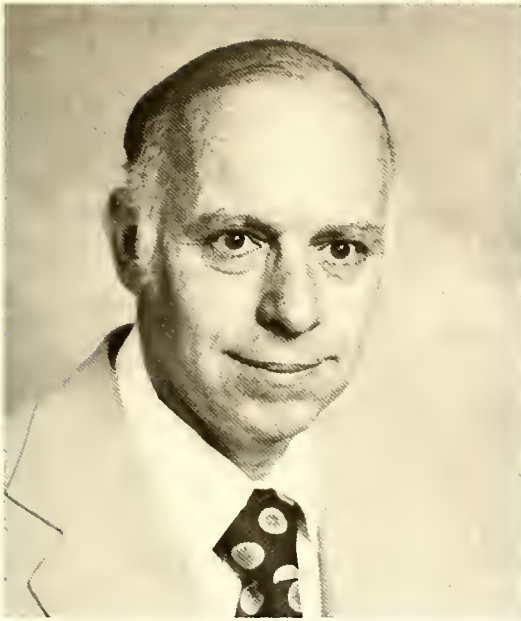
He was educated in Marion City Schools, Gardner-Webb College, New Orleans Baptist Seminary, and Fruitland Baptist Bible Institute. He is married to Eula Lonon Hall. They have three children: Carrie Elizabeth (Betty), Millard F., Jr. and Susan. They have 4 grandchildren.

Millard has pastored the following churches: Glenwood, (two pastorates) North Cove, Sunny Vale, Chapel Hill, (two pastorates) Turkey Cove, Sugar Hill, Grandview, all in the Blue Ridge Association, and served as Associational Missionary in the Association. Also served Bordeaux, Nashville, Tenn., Green River, Piedmont and Montford Cove in Green River Association, West Canton, Canton, N.C., Drexel Memorial, Drexel, N.C., Orchard Street, Mayo, S.C.; Creech Memorial, Ahoskie, N.C. He was licensed and ordained by the East Marion Baptist Church and has been in the ministry for 39 years.

**W.C. KELLER**  
*Moderator 1973-1974*

W.C. Keller was born in Henrietta, North Carolina September 22, 1917. He is married to the former Helen Anne Williams. They have one son, David Roger Keller, who is a Doctor of Clinical Psychology. Keller is a graduate of Rutherfordton-Spindale High School, Credit through Gardner-Webb College and a graduate of Fruitland Baptist Bible Institute. He surrendered to preach May 15, 1945. He pastored Floyd's Creek Baptist Church in Forest City for 3½ years and Mill Spring Baptist Church, Rutherfordton County for 5 years. He has been at West Marion Church in this association for 18 years. He has served as president of the Pastor's Conference and on most all the committees of the Association.





**B. TERRY THORPE**  
*Moderator 1975-1976*

B. Terry Thorpe is a native of Kentucky, having been born in Owensboro on August 7, 1924. He was converted at the age of nine in the First Baptist Church Owensboro during a revival led by Dr. George W. Truett. His family moved to Miami, Fla. in 1936. He graduated from Miami Senior High School in 1942 and entered the University of Florida at Gainesville, joined U.S. Army Air Corps in the spring of 1942 and entered pilot training graduating with wings and a commission as 2nd Lt., after which he entered the University of Miami at Coral Gables, Florida in the fall of 1945. He married Wilma Waldin in June 1947. They have four children.

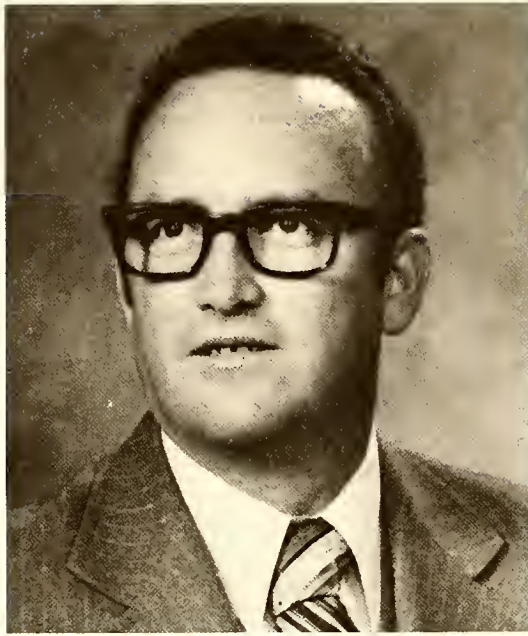
He received his B.A. Degree from the University of Miami in the spring of 1948 and graduated from Southern Seminary in Louisville in the spring of 51. He did Mission work in southern Florida. He was pastor of the First Baptist Church in Old Fort from 1955-1958, where he left to serve as a Missionary to British Central Africa from 1958-1967. He pastored Amherst Baptist Church, Drexel, N.C. 1968-69. He again pastored First Baptist, Old Fort 1970-1977. He pastored Enka Baptist Church, Enka, N.C. 1977-1978.

**JOHN BOWDEN**  
*Moderator 1977*

John Bowden was born June 3, 1930, Sweetwater, Texas, where he graduated from Newman High School in 1947. He received his B.S. Degree, Hardin Simmons Baptist University, 1952; M.D. Degree, New Orleans Baptist Seminary, 1955 and M.R.E. from New Orleans Baptist Seminary, 1957. He was licensed to preach at First Baptist Church, Sweetwater, Texas in 1948 and ordained at First Baptist Church, Kenner, La. in 1953.

He served as Professor at Fruitland Baptist Bible Institute 1960-1964. Other churches he has pastored are Enka Baptist, Enka, N.C.; Oakhurst Baptist Church, Charlotte, N.C. He was president of the Blue Ridge Pastor's Conference in 1975. He came to Clinchfield as pastor in 1974.





**CECIL LOVELACE**  
*Moderator 1977-1979*

Cecil Lovelace was born February 3, 1944, in Rutherford County, North Carolina and was the youngest of eight children of Mr. and Mrs. Clifford T. Lovelace. He graduated from Sunshine High School in 1962; married the former Edna Mae Hancock of Spindale the same year. He was saved in 1969, licensed to preach in January 1972 and ordained in September 1972 all through the Mountain View Baptist Church of Bostic.

He graduated from Fruitland Baptist Bible Institute in 1975 and attended CEP Classes at Mars Hill College 1976-1977. He served as pastor of the Faith Baptist Church, Forest City from September 1972 through December 1974. He has served as pastor of the Nebo Church from January 1975 until the present.

**TOM E. LOLLEY**  
*Moderator 1979-*

Tom E. Lolley was born March 17, 1937 in Troy Alabama. He is married to Sydney Harrell Lolley. They have two children: Tim and Beth. Mr. Lolley served five years in the Military in Alabama and North Carolina National Guard. He attended Samson High School, Samson Alabama, Howard College, Birmingham, Alabama and graduated in 1965, B.D. Degree (converted to Master of Divinity, 1973) from Southeastern Baptist Theological, Wake Forest, N.C. Clinical Pastoral Education includes N.C. Baptist Hospital, Winston-Salem, N.C. and John Umstead State Hospital, Butner, N.C.

From 1956-1957 he served as Minister of Music at Edgewater Baptist Church, Birmingham, Alabama, and has pastored the following: Goodhope Baptist, Troy, Ala., 1957-1958; Calvary Baptist, Warrior, Ala., 1958-1962; Rock Springs and Mt. Zion, Louisburg, N.C., 1962-1965; Axton Baptist Church, Axton, Va., 1965-1970; Hester Baptist Church, Oxford, N.C., 1970-1977; and came to Old Fort First in 1977.



He is currently serving on the Time, Place, Preacher Committee of the Baptist State Convention, N.C. He served as Moderator of Flat River Baptist Association, Oxford, N.C.; was a Member of Research Triangle Missions Committee of Baptist State Convention; Member of "Impact 80" Committee of Baptist State Convention North Carolina; Assoc. S.S. Director (Va.) Assoc. Music Dir. (Va.); Assoc. Youth Director (Ala. and Va.); Teaching Faculty of N.C. Baptist Assembly (2 times); was Camp Pastor, Peaks of Otter R.A. Camp (Va.); Speaker at 50th Anniversary of Cooperative Program Baptist State Convention, North Carolina 1974.

Mr. Lolley was listed in *Who's Who in North Carolina* 1973; Listed in *Who's Who in Religion*, 1974, 1975 and listed in *Noble Americans* 1976.

**DIRECTORS OF MISSIONS WHO HAVE SERVED**  
**1945 — 1979**



**OREN BRADLEY**

*Director of Missions 1945-1946*

Oren Bradley is a native of Charlotte and graduated from Southwestern Seminary, Fort Worth, Texas. He served the Blue Ridge Association, along with the Green River Association, as Director of Missions from October 1945 to October 1946. At this time he went with the Green River Association full time. He has served as pastor of Stovall Church, Granville County, and the Bethlehem Church, near Raleigh. He served as Missionary in the Yates Association and has been Director of Missions in Surry Association since 1960.

**FRANK B. ROBINSON**

*Director of Missions 1947-1948*

Frank B. Robinson is married to the former Violet Ray and they have two children: David L. and James E. They are natives of North Carolina. He attended the following schools: Garner High School, Gardner-Webb College, Southwestern Seminary. Frank has served the following churches as Pastor: Union Chapel, Zebulon, N.C.; Kellum Church Field, Jacksonville, N.C.; Fort Barnwell, Spring Garden, and Oakley of Asheville, N.C.; Virginia Avenue, Hagerstown, Md.; First Baptist, Delmar, Delaware; Temple, Hickory, N.C.; Marbury, Marbury, Maryland; Smyrna, Whiteville, N.C.; Galatia Church, Seaboard, N.C.

He has served as a member of the State Mission Board of Maryland, as Moderator of the Potomac Association, Maryland, and President of the Pastor's Conference; also Frank has served a number of churches who have built new buildings.



**L.G. REDDING**

*Director of Missions (Part-Time)  
1950-1951*

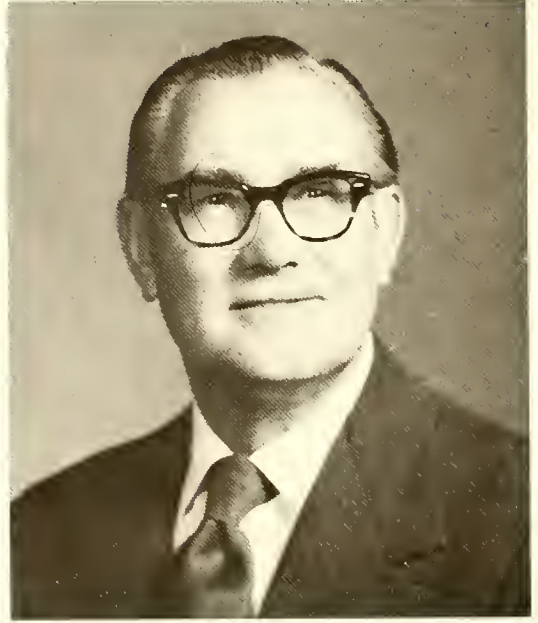
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**MILLARD F. HALL**

*Director of Missions 1953-1956*

Millard Frank Hall was born on September 10, 1918 in Old Fort, N.C. He is the son of C.C. Hall and Nanny Walker Hall. He is married to Eula Lonon Hall. They have three children: Betty, Millard F., Jr. (Bud) and Susan.

Millard was educated in Marion City Schools, Gardner-Webb College, New Orleans Baptist Seminary, and Fruitland Baptist Bible Institute. He has pastored the following churches: Glenwood (two pastorates) North Cove, Sunny Vale, Chapel Hill, (two pastorates) Turkey Cove, Sugar Hill, and Grandview, all in the Blue Ridge Association. Also served Bordeaux, Nashville, Tenn., Green River, Piedmont and Montford Cove in Green River Association, West Canton, Canton, N.C., Drexel Memorial, Drexel, N.C., Orchard Street, Mayo, S.C., Creech Memorial, Ahoskie, N.C.



**GLEN A. RAMSEY, JR.**

*Director of Missions 1956-1960*

Glen A. Ramsey, Jr. was born in Valdese, N.C. He is married to the former Faye Walsh. They have two children: Mrs. June Harris and Mrs. Gail Kale. He is a graduate of Valdese High School, Gardner-Webb College, and Lenoir-Rhyne College; also additional studies at Appalachian State University, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill; School of Pastoral Care, Baptist Hospital; Southeastern Theological Seminary. He served First Baptist Church, Rutherford College for more than six years before coming to the Blue Ridge Association in April, 1956 and serving there through October, 1960. Other churches served: First Baptist Church, Marshall, N.C.; Calvary Baptist Church, Canton, N.C.; First Baptist Church, Catawba, N.C.; Longview Baptist Church, Hickory, N.C. Presently at Walker Road Baptist Church, Morganton, N.C. Glen was licensed in 1948 and ordained by the First Baptist Church, Valdese, N.C. in 1950.





## **HENRY POWELL**

*Director of Missions 1961-1974*

Henry Powell was born in Spartanburg County, South Carolina, September 29, 1921. He was educated in the public schools of Spartanburg County: Valley Falls Elementary School, Boiling Springs High School; North Greenville (Junior) College, AA, 1940; Furman University, BA, 1942; Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth, Texas, Th.M., 1946.

He is married to Mary Hancock of Asheville, N.C. and they have five children: Patricia Ann, Robert Henry, Jane, Nancy, and Mary Ruth.

Henry was pastor of Hepzibah Baptist Church, Winnsboro, Texas, 1945-46. He was Director of Missions in the following associations: Sandy Creek, January, 1947 to April 1950; Green River, April 1, 1950 to February 1, 1959; Columbus, February 1, 1959 to July 15, 1961; Blue Ridge, July 15, 1961 to December 15, 1974; West Chowan, December 15, 1974 to date.

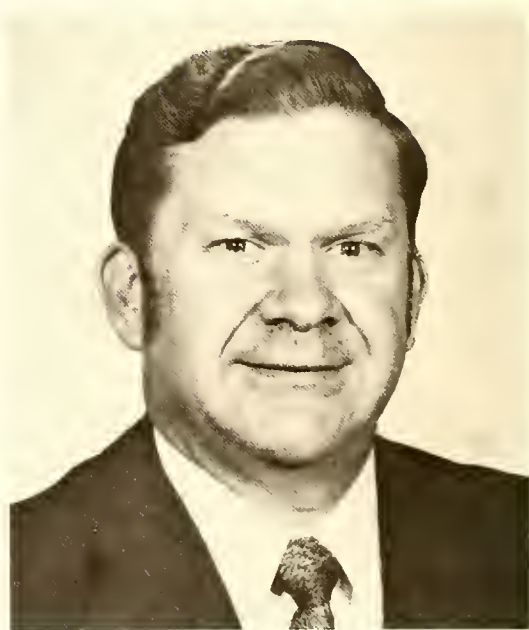
## **DONALD H. WILSON**

*Director of Missions 1975-*

Donald H. Wilson, the present Director of Missions of the Blue Ridge Association, was born February 3, 1932 in Rutherford County. He is married to the former Clara Clontz of Marion, N.C. They have four children: Mark, Wanda, Donna, and Steve, and two grandchildren.

Donald was educated in Marion City Schools, Gardner-Webb College, Fruitland Baptist Bible Institute, Erskine Seminary and Southeastern Seminary.

He has pastored Turkey Cove, North Cove, Hankins in the Blue Ridge Association. He has pastored Eastside, Kings Mountain; Ingleside, Landrum, S.C.; Laurel Springs, Boone, N.C. Before coming to the Blue Ridge Association as Director of Missions in 1975, he served in Three Forks Association, Boone, N.C. as Director of Missions for nine years.



## CHARTER MEMBER CHURCHES

The following churches were Charter Members at the organization of the Blue Ridge Baptist Association in 1929.

### BETHLEHEM BAPTIST CHURCH



**BETHLEHEM BAPTIST CHURCH  
SECOND BUILDING**



**REV. JACK GUFFEY WAS THE LAST  
PASTOR OF THE SECOND CHURCH  
BUILDING AND THE FIRST PASTOR  
OF THE PRESENT BUILDING**



**BETHLEHEM BAPTIST CHURCH  
PRESENT BUILDING**



**REV. JAMES H. KING**  
*Pastor*

The Bethlehem Baptist Church was organized November 10, 1831 and joined the Blue Ridge Association in 1929. There are now 160 members and 47 non-resident members. There have been three church buildings, the first being a log building, the second a wood frame building and the third and present building which was built in 1956. Rev. Cecil Brown and Rev. James C. Brown are preachers which have been sent out by the church.

The following have served as Pastors:		H.C. Marley	1910-1913
		J.A. Davis	1914-1915
J.C. Grayson	1831-1833	C.T.S. Norvelle	
Samuel J. Bruce	1833-1837	George O. Harrell	
B. Bruce	1837-1839	A.P. Sorrells	
W. Hill	1839-1842	Landrum Greene	
J.F. Pendergrass	1842	E.W. Church	
John O. Pendergrass		Lee Jones	
J.W. Robertson		C.P. Holland	
J. Evans		Wade Ruff	
Leroy McCurry	1858-1861	M.L. Buchanan	
J.F. Pendergrass	1862-1865	C.L. Taylor	
C.B. Justice	1866-1868	C.C. Grogan	
J.W. Wilkie	1869-1874	E.R. Lawing	
J.H. Taylor	1875-1876	Dewey Hodge	
W.J. Wilkie	1877-1880	Robert Hughes	
J.C. Miller	1881	J. Frank Early	1945
G.W. Harmon	1883	Gordon Wilson	1946
C.M. Murchison	1885-1887	J.R. Surratt	1947-1948
W.D. Harris	1888-1890	Garrett Propes	1949-1953
J.C. Sorrells	1891-1896	Garrien Wilson	1953
William Whitesides	1897-1899	Jack Guffey	1954-1959
D.J. Hunt	1900-1901	Hulon Roberts	1959-1961
C.J. Davis	1902-1903	J.R. Snipes	1961-1962
J.D. Hunt	1904-1906	J.D. Compton	1962-1965
W.L. Barrs	1907	B.R. Whisanant	1965-1971
W.W. Wall	1908	Wm. Harold Owens	1971-1975
J.I. Shinn	1909	James H. King	1975

Rev. James H. King the present pastor of Bethlehem Baptist Church was born in Henderson County, North Carolina, July 24, 1932. He moved to South Carolina in 1936. He attended Greenville County Schools, Bible School at Dan Greer Bible Institute of Washington Ave., Greenville, S.C. First church pastored was Oneal Baptist Church, Greer, S.C. He came to Blue Ridge Association in 1975. He is married to the former Mabel Hart. They have five children: Cynthia Kay and James Timothy of the home and three daughters married—Mrs. Vickie Mahaffey, Mrs. Beverly Morrow and Mrs. Pamela Suber. They have three grandchildren.

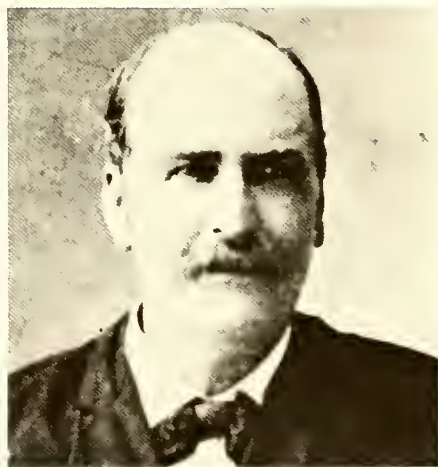
The following have served as church clerks at Bethlehem:

W.B. Parker	Mrs. John Reel
Jesse Brown	Edith Melton
Lonnie Parker	Mrs. Ruby Hurt
Alpha Reel	Edith Melton
Eugene May	Mrs. Jewell Day
W.A. Parker	Mrs. Guy Hensley
G.C. Tabor	Mrs. Irma Jackson
Mrs. Michael Reed	Mrs. Guy Hensley
F. Eugene May	Beulah Jackson
David P. Bishop	Hilda Randall
Jack Cody	Virginia Conley
Reid Lackey	Betty Metcalf
Edith Melton	

## CHAPEL HILL BAPTIST CHURCH



**CHAPEL HILL BAPTIST CHURCH**  
Rev. Howard Pullum, Pastor  
(picture not available)



**REV. J.C. SORREELS**  
First Pastor

The Chapel Hill Baptist Church was organized on March 20, 1898 in the Chapel Hill School House. They joined the Green River Association in September, 1898 and was a Charter Member of the Blue Ridge Association. The first building was built in 1906 and the present building was completed by April 20, 1948. A new educational and fellowship building was dedicated September 10, 1978.

The Charter Members of Chapel Hill Baptist Church were: Noah Turner, B.F. Corpening, Andrew Yount, Amanda Yount, Ida Duncan, Lettie Bright, Mrs. E.A. Duncan, Richard Turner, Henry Smith, Sibbie Smith, Dora Smith, Sally Smith, Jasper Norton, J.S. Turner, Lizzie Kaylor, Lily Kanipe, Dora Kanipe, Louise Yount, John Yount, Mary Poteat. The present membership is 335.

Church clerks are as follows: J.M. Norton, B.C. Poteat, B.F. Corpening, S.T. Bowman, George Smith, Mrs. Minnie Bailey, J.A. Hensley, Mrs. Clinton Dockery, Mrs. John Barnes, Jr., Clinton Dockery, Katherine Evans, Mary K. Hayes, Mrs. Iris Cogdill, June G. Ward, Betty Bowman, Grace Kaylor, Reba Bowman, Ray Fender, C.B. Morris, G.G. Short, A.M. Swann, James Smith, J.S. Setzer, Elsie Pyatt, Mary Pyatt, Thelma Franklin, Bertha Mainer, Barbara McKinney.

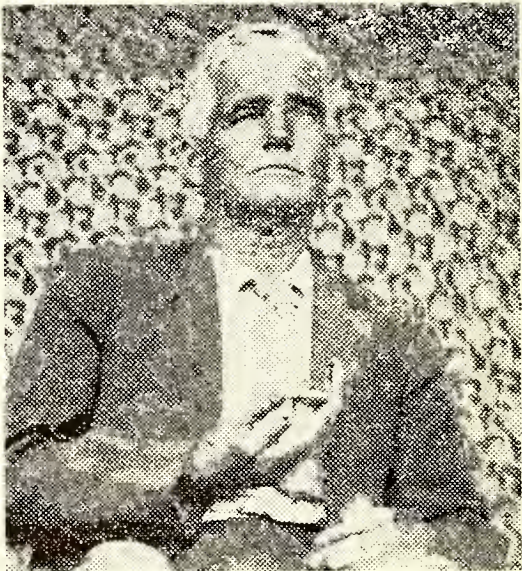
The following were ordained or licensed to preach by the Chapel Hill Baptist Church: J.W. Owensby, James Smith, Garland Kaylor, Dewey Hodge, Lanny Condrey, Johnny Swann, Jim Condrey.

The Chapel Hill Church sponsored a Mission in Jacktown that later became Parker's Chapel Baptist Church.

The following have served as Pastors of Chapel Hill:

J.C. Sorrels	1898-1899	W.F. McMahan	1926-1927
D.J. Hunt	1900-1901	Don Hall	1927-1928
W.L. Haynes	1901-1902	W.F. McMahan	1928-1929
C.S. Cashwell	1902-1904	R.L. Crawford	1929-1935
B.B. Harris	1904-1905	Dewey Hodge	1935-1939
A.P. Sorrels	1905-1909	James Street	1939-1940
D.P. Loudermilk	1909-1910	Dewey Hodge	1940-1944
G.H. Weaver	1910-1915	Wade Ruff	1944-1948
Fletcher L. Simmons	1919-1920	Millard F. Hall	1948-1953
R.G. Short	1919-1920	Albert H. Parham	1953-1954
E.J. Jones	1921	Furman Harvey	1954-1957
C.W. Greene	1921-1924	Millard F. Hall	1957-1960
M.L. Buchanan	1924-1925	L.W. Cain	1961-1971
D.J. Hunt	1925-1926	Howard Pullum	1972-Present

An unusual member of Chapel Hill Baptist Church was Mr. Thomas Swann who was born November 24, 1866 and died July 9, 1946. When Mr. Swann was a baby he was stricken with polio and his feet and legs did not develop. Because of his infirmity, it was necessary for him to use pads and crawl on his hands and knees. Sometime in young manhood he was baptized in a chair in a branch near the church. He served as superintendent of the first Sunday School, and crawled more than a mile to the church. Later he taught a Sunday School class and served as a deacon. Often he served as moderator for church conferences. He was interested in young people and blessed with great wisdom. He would give sound advise and encouragement. He was never married, but he took care of his brother's children after their mother died. His handicap, instead of being a hindrance, proved to be a blessing to all who knew him.



MR. THOMAS SWANN

## CHERRY SPRINGS BAPTIST CHURCH



**SECOND BUILDING**



**CHERRY SPRINGS  
BAPTIST CHURCH**  
*Present Building*

The Cherry Springs Baptist Church was organized in 1869. In the year of 1862 there were only three baptists in Crooked Creek Township. They were Esquire John Coxey, Arrison Moore, and Joshua Keeter. These three men secured a preacher from Virginia and a revival was held at the home of Esquire John Coxey and a number of souls were saved. As a result of this meeting Cherry Springs Baptist Church was organized.

The first church, which was a small, one room, slatted building, was erected near the head of Little Creek and was called Cherry Springs because of a nice cool spring in the basin of a rock and a large wild cherry tree standing near it.

In 1895 a new and larger building was erected and the third and present building was built in 1968. The Cherry Springs Church joined Blue Ridge Association in 1929. The present membership is 321.

The following have served as Church Clerks: W.L. Moffitt, G.L. Fortune, O.W. Robertson, H.B. Croom, J.A. Lavender, G.H. Gilliam, D.M. Davis, C.W. Painter, A.E. Davis, V.L. Wilson, Doris Davis, Roy Early, Irene Early, and Janice Suttles.

Preachers sent out by the Church: Clarence Gilliam, Kenneth Walker, Raymond Walker, Lester Murphy, Roy Early (licensed), James Walker (licensed).



**REV. TIMOTHY F. LEE**  
*Pastor*

The following have served as Pastors at Cherry Springs Church:

1869-1886-			
Will Wilkie		H.C. Marley	1910-1912
Hade Taylor		J.A. Davis	1914
George Bartlett		C.S. Nowille	1916
John Pendergrass		E.W. Church	1919
Rhom Pendergrass		C.P. Holland	1920-1921
Bill Logan		F.L. Simmons	1922-1924
Jim Moffitt		A.A. Walker	1925-1926
A.J. Hensley		C.C. Grogan	1927-1933
John M. Walker		C.C. Parker	1934-1935
A.P. Sorrells		H.L. Phillips	1936
J.L. Shinn		W.F. McMahan	1937-1941
George P. Harrill		L.G. Redding	1942-1945
J.P. Bennett		A.W. Penland	1946
C.M. Murchinson		Franklin Justice	1947-1955
		James Kisselburg	1956-1959
G.W. Suttlemyre	1894	Bruce Littleton	1960-1961
Marion Whitesides	1895	Paul A. Coyle	1963-1973
W.L. Barrs	1907	Timothy F. Lee	1974-Present

The present pastor, Timothy F. Lee was born September 4, 1944, in Greenville, S.C. He is married to the former Judy Crain of Greenville, S.C. They have two children—Timothy Mark and April Denise.

He graduated from Fruitland Baptist Bible Institute in 1971 and from Mars Hill College in 1978, recently received his B.D. from Luther Rice Seminary, Jacksonville, Fla. He was ordained by the Airport Baptist Church in Greenville, S.C. in April, 1970. He pastored the Milford Baptist Church in Greenville, S.C. from April, 1970 until September, 1973; pastored the First Baptist Church, DeLeon Springs, Florida from September, 1973 until December, 1974. He came to Cherry Springs, Old Fort, December, 1974. He has served on various committees in the associations, as well as president of Blue Ridge Baptist Pastor's Conference, 1976; served as president of the McDowell Baptist Camp Meeting, 1977 and 1978.

### PLEASANT GARDENS BAPTIST CHURCH



**PLEASANT GARDENS  
BAPTIST CHURCH**



**REV. WAYNE A. SLATON**  
Pastor

The Clear Creek Baptist Church was constituted in 1897 with the following Charter Members: Mr. and Mrs. Newton Sparks, Mr. and Mrs. W.E. Patton, Mr. and Mrs. Erwin Grindstaff, Mr. and Mrs. Jim Patton, Mr. and Mrs. Allen Davis, Mr. and Mrs. Robert Willis, and Mr. and Mrs. Newton Buchanan.

The first place of worship was known as "The Saw Mill Shack" because of a Mr. Dillingham, who operated a saw mill on Clear Creek, and built a crude barracks for his men with the waste slabs and when he moved his mill he gave the building to the people of Clear Creek to be used as a Church. This building was used for about two years. A new and larger structure was built near the present location. The second Clear Creek Church was struck by lightning and destroyed by fire. Services were held in the school building while a new church was being constructed. This building, completed about 1921, was used until the erection of the present edifice.

In 1959 the congregation voted to change the name from Clear Creek to Pleasant Gardens Baptist Church to be effective on the date of the dedication of the new sanctuary which was held on October 4, 1959. The three-story educational facility was built in 1971. Pleasant Gardens present membership is 511.

The list of Church Clerks is incomplete. Mrs. Bob Bowers is presently the Church Clerk.

The following have served as Pastors:

J.C. Sorrels	J.C. Owens
Alonzo Sorrels	J.O. Summerlin
W.E. Buchanan	Charles Waters
J.P. Shell	W.E. Abrams
W.F. McMahan	Carson Brittain
W.E. Taylor	Guthrie Colvard
Charles Ellis	B.A. Bowers
Harley Phillips	Bertis Fair
C.P. Holland	E.P. Bennett
J.H. Henline	Phate W. McSwain, Jr.
H.H. Justice	Wayne A. Slaton (Present)

Wayne A Slaton, the present pastor, was born in Greenville, S.C. He is married to the former Evelyn Hamrick who is a graduate of Wesleyan Conservatory, Macon, Georgia; Minister of Music at First Baptist, Sanford, N.C. and First Baptist, Bryson City, N.C. They have twin sons fourteen years old—Jon and Steve.

Rev. Slaton is a graduate of Wingate College and Wake Forest University (B.A.) and was active in Sports, Drama, Music and B.S.U. President of Ministerial Association at Wake Forest. He attended Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, Ky (Bachelor of Divinity and Master of Divinity); School of Pastoral Care, Baptist Hospital, Winston-Salem, N.C.; S.S. Board-Administration Studies-Nashville, Tenn. Taught in Seminary Extension Center two years.

His pastoral experience includes student pastorates while at Wake Forest and Southern Seminary, in N.C., Indiana, and Kentucky. He was pastor at Temple Mission, Owensboro, Ky.; Central Baptist, Spruce Pine, N.C.; First Baptist, Bryson City, N.C.; Wrightsboro Baptist, Wilmington, N.C.; Lawndale Baptist, Greensboro, N.C. and presently at Pleasant Gardens. He has also been active in Denominational work. He served seven years on the General Board of Baptist State Convention, Summer work with the Convention as a college student, President of Western North Carolina Baptist Pastor's Conference, and of Bryson City Ministerial Conference. He was Moderator of Tennessee River Association, Swain County, N.C. He served on several committees of N.C. Baptist Convention and was on the Advisory Committee to raise Forty-five Million Dollars for Wake Forest University.

# CLINCHFIELD BAPTIST CHURCH



**FIRST BUILDING**



**CLINCHFIELD BAPTIST CHURCH**  
*John Bowden, Pastor*

The Clinchfield Baptist Church was organized December 19, 1915. Charter members were R.M. Lamb, Mrs. R.A. Lamb, Edna Lamb, George Lamb, Joseph Lamb, Thomas Lamb, Albert Lamb, Z.V. Kendrick, Mrs. Z.V. Kendrick, Boyce Sprinkle, Mrs. Boyce Sprinkle, D.P. Loudermilk, and Mrs. D.P. Loudermilk. The Church joined the Blue Ridge Association in 1929. Present membership is 554.

There have been three buildings—The first in 1919 and new class rooms were added in 1935. A two story brick educational building was built in 1953. In September 1963, a beautiful Sanctuary was begun and was occupied on November 8, 1964.

The following have served as Church Clerks: Z.V. Kendrick, Boyce Sprinkle, E.M. Childres, G.H. Taylor, A.W. Henson, John Williams, J.W. Ponder, G.W. Biggerstaff, George Locke, Mrs. Garmon Cuthbertson, and Elizabeth Withers Kent.

Five preachers have been sent out by the church. Albert A. Young, Wilford Reese, Paul Reese, Erastus Walker, and Eugene Lawing.

Ministers of Music that have served: Mr. Charles Estep, Miss Judy Greer, Mrs. Betty Perry, Mrs. Hilda Ward, Mr. Jim McBride, Mrs. Jean Revis, Mr. Richard Young and Mrs. Frances Bowden.

Educational Directors: Mrs. Charles (Vivian) Estep, and Mrs. Henry Powell.

Pastors that have served at Clinchfield Baptist Church are:

Rev. Tarlton	1916	M.H. Kendall	1938-1940
A.P. Sorrells	1916-1917	C.H. Hamby	1940-1941
T.H. Roach	1918-1919	R.I. Corbett	1941-1946
W.M. Hall	1919	P.C. Stokes	1946-1949
J.M. Brown	1919-1920	Glenn Bolch	1950-1951
E.J. Jones	1920-1922	E.W. Walker	1951-1952
C.L. Caldwell	1922-1923	Neils H. Larson	1952-1959
C.L. Taylor	1923-1927	Olin D. Hefner	1959-1966
A.A. Walker	1927-1930	J. Lester Lane, Interim	1966 & 1973
A.L. McGinnis	1931-1932	James H. Ballard	1966-1969
J.L. Hancock	1932-1934	Donald McIntyre	1969-1973
W.R. Grigg	1935-1937	John Bowden	1974-Present

John Bowden, the present pastor, was born June 3, 1930, Sweetwater, Texas, where he graduated from Newman High School in 1947. He received his B.S. Degree, Hardin Simmons Bapt. University, 1952; M.D. Degree, New Orleans Baptist Seminary, 1955 and M.R.E. from New Orleans Baptist Seminary, 1957. He was licensed to preach at First Baptist Church, Sweetwater, Texas in 1948 and ordained at First Baptist Church, Kenner, La. in 1953.

He served as Professor at Fruitland Baptist Bible Institute 1960-1964. Other churches he has pastored are Enka Baptist, Enka, N.C.; First Baptist Church, Bryson City, N.C.; Oakhurst Baptist Church, Charlotte, N.C. He was president of the Blue Ridge Pastor's Conference in 1975 and Moderator of Blue Ridge Association in 1977.

## CROSS MEMORIAL BAPTIST CHURCH



**CROSS MILL BAPTIST CHURCH**  
1934



**CROSS MEMORIAL  
BAPTIST CHURCH**

The Cross Mill Baptist Church, originally known as the Second Baptist Church, was organized on September 15, 1918, in a dwelling house owned by the Cross Cotton Mill, with fourteen Charter Members as follows: Mr. & Mrs. John Brigman, Miss Hazel Brigman, Mr. Morris Brigman, Mrs. A.E. Bryant, Mrs. Sarah Carrigan, Mr. & Mrs. F.J. Duncan, Mr. & Mrs. J.B. Holcombe, Mrs. Agnes Myers, Mrs. Daisy Patterson and Mrs. Gertie Burleson. They became a member of the Green River Association soon after organization. The name of the Church was changed to the Cross Mill Baptist Church on February 14, 1926. In February 1967 the name was changed to the Cross Memorial Baptist Church. They joined the Blue Ridge Association in 1929.

The first church building was erected and the first service was held in the new building on March 13, 1927 with 179 present. After additions and many improvements through the years, the church building was completely destroyed by fire on October 10, 1964. The second building was dedicated February 12, 1967. The church held services in the Eugene Cross Elementary School for more than two years while the present building was being constructed. They now have a membership of 524.



**REV. BLAINE H. GROSE**  
*Former Pastor*



**DENZIL ADAMS**  
*Present Pastor*

The following have served as Church Clerks: Mr. J.H. Robertson, Mr. John Williams, Mr. Carl Lowery, Mr. W.R. Burleson, Mrs. J.A. Bright, Mrs. Guy Hensley, and Mrs. J.C. Parker.

Preachers sent out by the church were W.F. McMahan, J.B. Holcombe, Virgil Bradburn, Donald Wilson, Howard Silvers, J.D. Hall, Ralph Gouge, Jerry England, Ray Hall and Ronnie Owen.

The following have served as Pastors of Cross Memorial Baptist Church:

R.G. Short	1918-1920	W.C. Pate	1941-1944
W.F. McMahan	1920-1921	Paul Brock	1944-1947
Lee Jones	1921-1922	Marvin Dameron	1947-1952
W.F. McMahan	1922-1933	B.M. Strickland	1952-1966
T.E. Payne	1934-1937	Blaine H. Grose	1966-1979
Julius Henline	1937-1941	Denzil Adams	1979

Blaine H. Grose is a native of Statesville, N.C. and graduated from Troutman High School, Louisiana College (Baptist), and New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary.

He served several churches as Associate Pastor and Minister of Music, and has served the following churches as pastor: Heath Springs Baptist Church, Heath Springs, S.C., for six years; Malvern Hill Baptist Church, Camden, S.C., for 2½ years; and Cross Memorial Baptist Church, Marion, N.C. for more than 12 years. He served four years (1974-1977) on the General Board of the N.C. Baptist State Convention.

Rev. Grose served as Moderator of the Blue Ridge Baptist Association for two years—1969-1970.

He was married in 1948 to Beatrice Maddox Grose (deceased) and they have one daughter, Mrs. Stephen Jolly (Donna); and two sons, David and Philip. He is presently married to Mrs. Bobbie Martin Grose. He has one stepson, Steven Martin.

**EAST MARION BAPTIST CHURCH**



**FIRST BUILDING**



**EAST MARION BAPTIST CHURCH**  
*Oscar Hartis, Jr., Pastor*

The East Marion Baptist Church was organized June 23, 1912. There were 14 Charter Members. W.S. Jones, J.T. Davis and T.C. Dixon were first elected Deacons. East Marion joined the Blue Ridge Association in 1929. There is now a membership of 286.

The original building was built in 1922 and during 1947-50 an educational building was added to the original structure. The former East Marion Elementary School building was purchased in 1976. The cafeteria is used for a Fellowship Hall.

Three preachers have been sent out by the church—Franklin Justice, Millard Hall, and Harvey Rumfelt.

The following have served as Church Clerks: J.E. Roland, Edith Flack, Dan L. Hall, W.L. Sluder, C.W. Morgan, A.G. Mace, Mrs. Fred Brooks, Carroll Hall, Mrs. Dan Hall, Howard Toney, Mrs. John Ray Davis, (Joyce) Mrs. Mike Corn, Mrs. Judy Justice Webb.

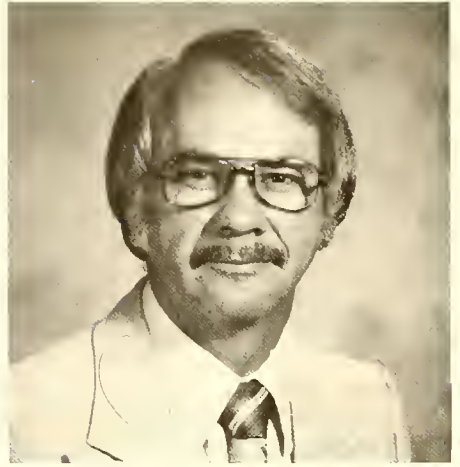
The following have served as Pastors:

D.P. Lowdermilk  
B.B. Harris  
S.D. Tipton  
R.L. Limrick  
T.H. Roach  
R.G. Short  
E.G. Jones  
C.A. Caldwell  
C.L. Taylor

D.J. Hunt  
A.A. Walker  
G.C. Ivory  
C.C. Grogan  
J.L. Hancock  
J.H. Smith  
L.W. Cain  
R. Von King  
C.M. Johnson

Jeta P. Baker  
M.L. Dorton  
Edward Roustio  
Charles C. Cross  
H.W. Stough  
W.L. Duncan  
James Bolick  
Roy C. Collins, Sr.  
Oscar Hartis, Jr.

Oscar Hartis, Jr., the present pastor, has served in the Ministry for 19 years in the Piedmont Area and Coastal Areas of North Carolina and the low country of South Carolina. He was also a school administrator in South Carolina. He has been at East Marion for 2½ years. He was educated at Wingate College, AA Degree; Campbell, BS; and Southeastern, M.Div. with RE.



Oscar Hartis, Jr., Pastor

## DYSARTSVILLE BAPTIST CHURCH



FIRST BUILDING



DYSARTSVILLE BAPTIST CHURCH

Franklin J. McCarson, the present pastor at Dysartsville, was born in Marion, N.C. on February 20, 1945. His parents were the late Frank M. McCarson and Pearl E. Minish. He attended Clinchfield Baptist Church as a youngster. He attended McDowell Public Schools and Fruitland Baptist Bible Institute. He is married to the former Peggy S. Yoder of Marion. They have three daughters—Ruth Ann, Sandra Gwen, and Elizabeth Diane. Dysartsville is his first pastorate. He now holds the office of Assoc. Church Training Director and is active in the Blue Ridge Pastors' Conference. He was ordained by Ashworth Road Baptist Church.



Franklin J. McCarson, Pastor

Dysartsville Baptist Church was organized May 2, 1857 and joined Blue Ridge Association in 1929. The following were Charter Members: David Walker, Nancy Walker, Benjamin, David, Melinda, Johaton, Mary and Miriam Taylor, Celia Daves, Harvey Price, and Cecil Walker. There is a present membership of 145. There have been two church buildings. The second was built in 1969.

The following have served as Church Clerks: J.D. Taylor, Jr. Denton, W.H. Taylor, F.C. Daves, L.G. Price, Lillie Pyatt, and Brenda Bledsoe.

Pastors that have served:

J.C. Grayson	1857-1859	L.G. Reding	1937-1940
R.E. Rollins	1859-1862	L.W. Cain	1942
Louis McCurry		W.F. McGinnis	1943
F.H. Posten and		R.L. Smith	1944-1948
B.B. Harris	1892-1896	J.R. Pruette	1948-1949
W.N. Whitesides	1896-1901	E.K. Baker	1950-1953
J.D. Hunt	1901-1904	J.J. Guffey, Sr.	1953-1954
O.J. Shell	1906-1912	Paul Puttman	1955
B.B. Harris	1912-1918	David Chatham	1956-1957
J.C. Sorrells	1919-1920	Frank Hollifield	1957-1961
J.M. Brown	1921-1922	Ralph Melton	1961-1962
E.P. White	1922-1925	R.L. Crawford	1962-1970
J.E. Hill	1926-1929	Billy Bristle	1971-1972
J.G. Benfield	1929-1935	Paul Ford	1972-1976
J.W. Sinclair	1936-1937	F. Jahue McCarson	1977

## GARDEN CREEK BAPTIST CHURCH



**H.H. JUSTICE**  
*First Pastor*



**GARDEN CREEK BAPTIST CHURCH**



*Rev. Allen McKinney, Pastor*

Garden Creek Baptist Church was organized in July 1929 with the following Charter Members: Mr. & Mrs. H.P. Houk, Wilhelmina Callahan, Rev. & Mrs. H.H. Justice, Zula Jones, Mr. & Mrs. F.C. Jones, Mrs. Glennie Robinson, Mrs. Ramsey, Mrs. Earl Robinson, Mr. & Mrs. John Robinson, Mr. & Mrs. M.F. Robinson, Sr., Mrs. Emily Snipes, Mr. & Mrs. W.H. Wall, Mr. & Mrs. W.H. Withrow, Faye Withrow Shaver, Ollie Robinson Ricks, Mrs. Lillie Wilson Hall, Mr. & Mrs. Walter Anderson, Mrs. Pearl Robinson Bartlett, E.S. Brown, Alma Haney, Hazel Justice Milano, George Jones, Mr. & Mrs. E.J. Rector, Mr. Clarence Robinson, Mrs. Watsel Robinson, Mrs. Fred Robinson, Tassie Wilson, Mr. Lawrence Robinson, Mr. Sewell Robinson, and Mr. Ralph Robinson.

Garden Creek Church was a Charter Member of the Blue Ridge Baptist Association.

The first building was built in 1929 and was remodeled in 1939. In 1959 the congregation broke ground for the present building which was completed and dedicated in 1960.

The church sent out Mr. Jim Kistler to preach.

The following members served as Church Clerks: Mrs. E.J. Rector, E.J. Rector, A.L. Silvers, R.A. Padgett, A.W. Henson, Van Harold Brown, Harold Biddix, Mrs. Dan McHone, Mrs. Millard Robinson, Jr., Mrs. Adrian Deal, Mrs. Howard McNeal, J.C. Robinson, John Kaylor, Lonnie Morgan, Marion Whitson, Mrs. Delon Hawkins, Paul Pittman, Lambert Murphy, Mrs. Kenneth Atkins, Mrs. Nick Devinney, and Helen Kaylor.

The following pastors served Garden Creek:

H.H. Justice	W.F. McMahan
Tommy Deaton	R.M. Heavener
C.C. Parker (twice)	Harold L. Sprinkle
W.B. Queen	Allen G. McKinney

Allen McKinney, the present pastor of Garden Creek Baptist Church was born in Asheville, N.C. He was married to the late Sandra Milton, from which union they had one son, Charles Allen. In 1962 he married Margaret Louise Burch of Swannanoa and they have a son, Truett Mark, who is now seven years old. Allen graduated from Enka High School, Fruitland Baptist Bible Institute, and Mars Hill College, from which he received a B.A. in Religion and Classical Languages. He has also had extensive training in voice and music under the tutelage of Mrs. Duane Morgan and Dr. Thomas Eugene West.

He served Ivy Gap Baptist Church and Mt. Pleasant Baptist Church, both in the Yancey Association, before coming, in 1972, to Garden Creek Baptist Church in the Blue Ridge Association. He has also been active in evangelistic music.

## GREENLEE BAPTIST CHURCH



**FIRST BUILDING**  
*(Greenlee School)*



**REV. W.F. McMAHAN**  
*First Pastor*



**GREENLEE BAPTIST CHURCH**



**REV. RICHARD MASON**  
*Pastor*

The Greenlee Baptist Church was organized August 17, 1918. The following were Charter Members: R.W. Pendergrass, Martha Pendergrass, Donnie Pendergrass, M.G. Pendergrass, Carrie Pendergrass, J.M. Pendergrass, G.G. Pendergrass, L.L. Pendergrass, Hattie Pendergrass, J.O. Pendergrass, L.O. Wall, Mary Wall, Annie Wall, Ola Wall and Henry Wall. The present membership is 297. The Church was a Charter Member of Blue Ridge Association.

The initial place of worship for Greenlee Church was the Greenlee Schoolhouse. The educational building was completed in January 1958. Worship services were held there until completion of the present sanctuary in December 1965.

Rev. Ned Duncan was sent out to preach by Greenlee Baptist Church.

The following have served as Church Clerks: J.M. Pendergrass, Hattie Pendergrass, M.L. McMahan, J.T. Sowers, W.W. Huskins, L.E. Chapman, J.B. Wells, O.B. Morgan, Freddie Hollifield, G.L. Lawing, Mrs. J.R. Walker, Lois Hensley, Mrs. J.B. Wells, Mrs. Blanche Hensley, Mrs. Floyd Suttles, Ray Suttles, Mrs. H.C. Hazard, Patsy Duncan Hollifield, Sharon Duncan Pritchard, Sylvia McAfee Murphy, and Ann N. Altman.

Pastors that have served Greenlee Baptist Church are:

W.F. McMahan	1918-1929	C.H. Favell	1955-1959
R.L. Crawford	1929-1937	C.H. McCarson	1959-1960
W.F. McMahan	1937-1940	Robert Lambert	1960-1962
L.G. Redding	1940-1944	Eugene Byrd	1962-1968
E.R. Lawing	1944-1948	R.M. Heavner	1968-1971
J.R. Surrent	1948-1951	Earl Duncan	1972-1974
W.E. Walker	1952-1955	Richard D. Mason	1976-Present

Richard D. Mason, (Ricky) the present pastor, is age 29 and born in Waynesville, N.C. He and his wife, Marilyn have been married three years and they have one son, Scott, age 1½. He received his education at Wingate and Campbell Colleges with a B.A. degree in Sociology. He has been licensed 11 years and ordained 10 years. While in school Ricky served at New Hope in Charlotte as Youth Director for two years, at First Baptist in Camp Springs, Md. for a summer, and at Rawls Baptist in Fuquay-Varina as Music Director for two years. He has been at Greenlee for almost 3 years as pastor. His wife has a B.A. degree in Social Science and Bible.

**HARMONY GROVE  
BAPTIST CHURCH**



**FIRST BUILDING**



**HARMONY GROVE  
BAPTIST CHURCH**

The Harmony Grove Baptist Church was organized on May 31, 1845. Present were Elders Lewis McCurry and J.F. Pendergrass from Bethel Church. The following were Charter Members: Rev. Joseph Grayson, Charles Dixon, Israel Simmons, Jesse Mason, John Simmons, Andrew Simmons, Benjamin C. Simmons, Robert Mayfield, Elizabeth Simmons, Elizabeth Hawkins, Elizabeth West, Jane Mayfield, Eliza A. Grayson, Louise Hemphill, and William Mason.

Harmony Grove was one of the churches that was granted a letter from the Green River Association to form the Blue Ridge Association in 1929.

The first place of worship was a one room log building below the road, and it was called the Meeting House. It is believed that services were conducted there several years before the church was organized. In 1881 a larger one room frame building was erected and it was called the Plank Church. In 1900 the present building was erected on the upper side of the road on property donated by Mrs. Mattie Young. In 1957 the present building was completely remodeled. In 1964 a pastor's home and two acres of land was purchased. In 1969 an Educational Building was completed.

Records show that the first Home Mission Offering was taken in 1846. The first offering taken for Foreign Missions was in 1847. The church observed its Centennial in 1946 due to the polio epidemic in 1945. Rev. C.C. Parker was the speaker for this special event.

The following served the Church as Clerks: George Walton, F.O. Simmons, F.L. Simmons, Tom Davis, W.F. Withrow, J.S. Pyatt, B.C. Morgan, W.F. Wilkerson, J.A. Hensley, J.F. Jackson, Major Pyatt, F.E. Pyatt, E.R. Lawing, A.P. Sorrels, E.S. Brown, J.C. Simmons, J.H. Simpson, Lloyd Cuthbertson, Mrs. Rachel Biddix and Mrs. Lloyd Cuthbertson.

Ordained Baptist Ministers from Harmony Grove are: Sam Pyatt, Fletcher Simmons, and E.R. Lawing.

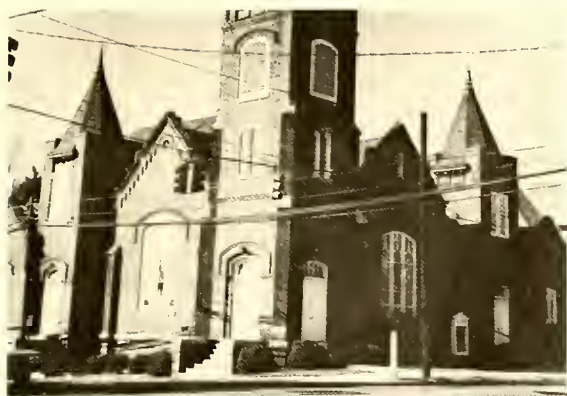


**REV. ROBERT E. BECK**  
Pastor

The following have served as Pastors:

Joseph C. Grayson	J.P. Sorrels	E.R. Lawing
R.H. Moody	J.W. Hill	Franklin Justice
C.B. Justice	F.L. Simmons	Carl McKinney
R.E. Rollins	M.V. Snypes	L.A. Miller
J.F. Pendergrass	J.L. Hodge	Clifton Cooper
George J. Wilkes	W.C. Green	Wilford Ramsey
J.A. Rector	W.F. McMahan	Marlowe Stroupe
J.R. Denton	J.R. Hicks	P.L. McMahan
W.F. Poster	R.L. Crawford	Robert Parker
J.C. Sorrels	W.C. Francis	L.A. Fleming
J.D. Harril	W.R. Grigg	George Williams
J.A. Hensley	Dewey Hodge	John Gates
B.P. Harris	Paul Reese	Robert Beck, Present Pastor
W.L. Haynes		

# FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF MARION



**FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH**  
Marion, N.C.



**REV. J. DEWEY HOBBS, JR.**  
Pastor

The First Baptist Church of Marion was organized July 21, 1862. The first building was built in 1878. Ground was broken for the present sanctuary in 1912, and the first service was held in the new building on December 20, 1914. In 1949-1950 the educational building was completed and in 1959, when First Methodist Church built their new building and moved, Marion First Baptist purchased their adjoining property.

Marion First Baptist joined the Blue Ridge Association in 1929, and was one of the charter members.

The Charter Members of this church are not listed, but there were five men and six women counted in old minutes of church meetings. The present membership is 733.

The Church Clerks were: E.A. Pose, H. Poteat, Thomas F. Hawkins, B.B. Price, J.F. Parker, J.W. VanHoy, J.Q.A. Michael, W.R. Chambers, R.K. Shotwell, James F. Farrow, A.H. Mitchem, Vanus Brown, LeRoy Silver, G.G. Pendergrass, Walter Morgan, Sr., R.C. Spratt, M.W. Gordon, Jr., I.A. McLain, Sr., Daniel Koone, Howard Gouge, Robert Rowe, Sr., James Laney, Jr.

The preachers sent out by this church included David B. Smith, Steve Barton, and David Pittman.

The following is a list of pastors who served Marion First Baptist Church:

C.B. Justice	1863-1864	Edward Long	1908-1914
John F. Pendergrass	1865-1878	W.H. Moore	1914-1917
S. Trivett	1878	J.T. Bowden	1917-1925
J.B. Richardson		P.D. Mangum	1925-1931
C.B. Justice		B.F. Bray	1931-1944
M.M. Landrum	to	M.O. Owens, Jr.	1944-1951
B.K. Maston		Thomas Eugene West	1951-1955
R.L. Patton		J.P. DuBose, Jr.	1956-1963
C.S. Cashwell		J. Dewey Hobbs, Jr.	1964-Present
W.B. Morton	1908		

The present pastor, Rev. J. Dewey Hobbs, Jr., was born in Wilmington, North Carolina; attended New Hanover High School; was awarded his B.A. from Wake Forest College in 1947; received a B.D. from Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in 1950; and received a D.Min. from Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary in 1978. He was ordained to the ministry in May, 1948.

Mr. Hobbs has held pastorates in Harrods Creek Baptist Church, Crestwood, Kentucky from 1948-1950; Center Grove Baptist Church, Kershaw, South Carolina from 1950-1954; Wingate Baptist Church Chaplain, Wingate College, Wingate, North Carolina from 1954-1964 before coming to Marion First in 1964.

Mrs. Hobbs is the former Virginia Gilley of Eden, North Carolina. She graduated Mars Hill College and Wake Forest College. She teaches in McDowell County Schools. The Hobbs' have three children: Cathy (Mrs. Hayes Powell), Alice (Mrs. Stephen Little) and Warren.

Mr. Hobbs has served in many capacities in the Associations and the State Convention. He served as Vice-President of the N.C. Baptist State Convention; served a four-year term as Trustee, Wake Forest University; served a four-year term on the State Convention's General Board and was President of that Board; served another term on the General Board and was on the Executive Committee of that Board for four years; served four-year term as Trustee of Wingate College; and is serving on the Foundation Board of the Pastoral Care Dept. of Baptist Hospital, Winston-Salem.

He has also been active in community service. He is a member and the first Chairman of the McDowell County Mental Health Advisory Board; is serving on the Regional Board for the Foothills Mental Health Centers in McDowell, Burke, Alexander, and Caldwell Counties; is a member and past Chairman of the McDowell County Jury Commission; served for several years on the Board of Review for Eagle Scout applicants; has served a four-year term as a Director of the McDowell County United Fund, serving as President one year; is an active member of the Marion Lions Club; and is a Trustee of the Christian Action League of North Carolina.

## FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF NEBO



**FIRST BUILDING**  
*Nebo Baptist*



**REV. A.P. SORRELS**  
*First Pastor*



**FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF NEBO**



**REV. CECIL LOVELACE**  
Pastor

The First Baptist Church of Nebo was organized January 13, 1918 and was a Charter Member of the Blue Ridge Association. The following were Charter Members of the Church: G.W. Taylor, Mrs. Mamie Hemphill, John Jimison, John O. Roberts, J.L. Padgett, A.P. Sorrels, W.F. Brown, Cora Padgett, and Mrs. M.C. Jimerson.

They now have 311 resident members and 127 non-resident members.

The first worship place was erected in 1913 and the present building in 1959-1960. Three preachers have been sent out by the Church. They are the following: C.F. Dyson, C.C. Church, and Howard Revis.

The following have served as Church Clerks of Nebo Church: G.D. Taylor, C.F. Dyson, R.O. Wilson, Olis Buff, James Melton, John Finley, Gurson Smith, Mrs. John Finley, and Mrs. Charles Burleson.

The following have served as Pastors:

A.P. Sorrels	1913	J.P. Crouch	1948-1950
Ralph Drake, Sr.	1917-1918	Clifton Cooper	1950-1954
J.M. Brown	1920	Charles Hamrick	1954-1958
P.J. Shell	1923-1928	Hall Hollifield	1959-1973
J.A. Morgan	1928-1929	Mitchell Pruitt	1973
O.L. McGinnis	1929-1931	Cecil Lovelace	1975-Present
W.C. Frances	1931-1933		
Dr. Tilley	1934-1935	Interim Pastors that have served:	
W.F. McMahan	1936-1938	C.F. Dyson	
L.G. Redding	1938-1941	M.V. Snypes	
E.R. Lawing	1941-1942	Virgil Bradburn	
G.W. Wilson	1942-1948	L.W. Cain	

The present pastor, Cecil Lovelace, was born February 3, 1944, in Rutherford County, North Carolina and was the youngest of eight children of Mr. and Mrs. Clifford T. Lovelace. He graduated from Sunshine High School in 1962; married the former Edna Mae Hancock of Spindale the same year. He was saved in 1969, licensed to preach in January 1972 and ordained in September 1972 all through the Mountain View Baptist Church of Bostic.

Rev. Lovelace graduated from Fruitland Baptist Bible Institute in 1975 and attended CEP Classes at Mars Hill College 1976-1977. He served as pastor of the Faith Baptist Church of Forest City from September 1972 through December 1974. He has served as pastor of the Nebo Church from January 1975 until the present. He served as Moderator of the Blue Ridge Association 1977-1979.

## NORTH COVE BAPTIST CHURCH



**FIRST BUILDING**

The North Cove Baptist Church was organized in 1921 after the death of a two-year old child of Mr. & Mrs. James Washburn. His funeral service was held under the trees and he was buried on Mr. Washburn's land, which he deeded to the Missionary Baptist Association for a cemetery and for a church building to be built upon. In 1971 the Trustees of the Blue Ridge Baptist Association deeded the cemetery and Church to North Cove Baptist Church. North Cove was a Charter Member of the Blue Ridge Association.

The second building of North Cove Church is near completion and they have a membership of 109.

The following were Charter Members: Mr. & Mrs. James A. Brown, Mr. & Mrs. James A. Washburn, Mr. & Mrs. R.A. Lonon, Mr. & Mrs. Sewell Brown, Mira McGee Brown, Gifton Brown and Thad Brown.

The following have served as Pastors:

Fletcher Simmons  
Rev. Rollins  
Rev. Waycastor  
Rev. Woody  
Dr. Fairchild  
C.C. Parker  
James A. Condrey  
G.E. Johnson  
Millard Hall



**NORTH COVE BAPTIST CHURCH**



**REV. STEVE CLARK**  
Pastor

H.H. Justice  
Lenoir Cox  
Leroy Smith  
Donald Wilson  
G.A. Condrey  
Jessie Bright  
Worth Womack  
Frank Womack  
Steve Clark

The present pastor, Steve Clark, was born at Jonas Ridge, Burke County, attended Jonas Ridge Elementary School and graduated from Burnsville High School, attended Fruitland Baptist Bible Institute. He is married to Lorine Autrey Clark, has three sons, Thomas, Duane, and Julian. He has one daughter, Rebekah. He was ordained by South Estatoe Baptist Church in 1949. He served as Sunday School Director and as Vice-Moderator in the Yancy Association. He pastored Zion Baptist Church and South Estatoe Baptist in Yancy Association. He also pastored Hefner Memorial Baptist Church in the Blue Ridge Association from 1959-1968. He came to North Cove as pastor in 1968.

# FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF OLD FORT



**FIRST BUILDING**



**FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH**  
Old Fort, N.C.

Old Fort Church joined the Catawba River Association in 1882, the year of organization, and is first mentioned as being affiliated with the Green River Association in 1886. The fifty-second annual session of the Green River Association met with the Old Fort Church on September 29, 1892. On September 30, 1920, the Green River Association again met with Old Fort.

The Old Fort Church joined the Blue Ridge Association in 1929, and the association met with Old Fort for it's second session in 1930, and a number of times since. In 1960 the Church voted to change the name from Old Fort Baptist Church to First Baptist Church of Old Fort.

The Charter Members of Old Fort First were the following: S.W. Mitchell, N.B. Cobb, G.W. Harmon, W.P. Terrell, R.H. Moore, J.S. Bradley, Alfred Smith, J.M. McCanless, Laura Crawford, Ida Crawford, Tempie Crawford, Nannie Finch, Mary Coe, Alice Smith, Callie Bradley, Maggie Bradley, and S.E. Moore. The present membership is 459 resident members and 216 non-resident members. The present sanctuary was built in 1928 and the educational building was built in 1951.

Clerks that have served at First Baptist, Old Fort are R.H. Moore, J.M. McCanless, W.M. Mashburn, G.M. Keeter, W.A.M. Gibson, J.M. Pendergrass, George Pendergrass, W.F. Owens, P.C. Harmon, E. Eugene May, Horace Early, Mrs. Margaret Harris, Mrs. C.N. Mease, Jr., Mrs. Viola Nesbitt, Mrs. Jennie Reese, Mrs. W.B. Early, Mrs. Henry Powell, Mr. F.M. Bradley, Mrs. Bill Faw, Mrs. Bill Ramsey, and Mrs. Jean Creekmore.

The following have served as Pastors of First Baptist, Old Fort:

G.W. Harmon	1882-1884	E.W. Church	1918-1920
J.K. Faulkner	Apr.-Nov. 1884	C.P. Holland	1920-1923
C.M. Murchison	1884-1887	H.C. Marley	1923-1927
J.E. King	1887-1888	E.P. Ingle	1928-1929
M.M. Landrum	1888-1897	C.L. Taylor	1929-1931
B.K. Mason	1897-1898	R.L. Smith	1934-1936



**REV. TOM LOLLEY**  
Pastor

R.L. Patton	1899-1900	D.C. Wesson	1936-1940
T.C. King	Mar.-Dec. 1900	W.E. Pettitt	1940-1945
C.S. Cashwell	1900-1904	D.C. Wesson	1946
W.F. Powell	1904-1905	Henry Walden	1947-1948
W.P. Barrs	1906-1908	John G. Hicks	1949-1955
J.L. Shinn	1908-1909	Terry Thorpe	1955-1958
H.C. Marley	1910-1912	J.G. Robinson	1958-1962
Rev. Davis	1912-1914	Frank Hawkins	1963-1966
I. Sorrels	1914-1915	Patrick Forbes	1966-1970
J.P. Bennett	1915-1916	Terry Thorpe	1970-1977
C.T.S. Norville	1917	Tom E. Lolley	1977-Present
G.P. Harrill	1918 (Died)		

The present pastor, Tom E. Lolley, was born March 17, 1937, in Troy Alabama. He is married to Sydney Harrell Lolley and they have two children: Tim and Beth.

Mr. Lolley attended Samson High School, Samson, Ala., graduated from Howard College (Samford University) Birmingham, Alabama in 1962 with A.B. Degree, attended Southeastern Baptist Theological, Wake Forest, N.C. and graduated 1965 B.D. Degree, converted to Master of Divinity, 1973, Clinical Pastoral Education at N.C. Baptist Hospital, Winston-Salem, N.C. and John Umstead State Hospital, Butner, N.C.

He served as Minister of Music at Edgewater Baptist Church, Birmingham, 1956-1957. Other pastorates include Goodhope Baptist Church, Troy Alabama 1957-58; Calvary Baptist Church, Warrior Alabama, 1958-1962; Rock Springs and Mt. Zion Baptist Churches, Louisburg, N.C., 1962-1965; Axton Baptist Church, Axton, Va. 1965-1970; Hester Baptist Church, Oxford, N.C. 1970-1977. He is presently serving as Moderator of the Blue Ridge Association, and he is currently serving on the Time, Place, Preacher Committee for the Baptist State Convention, North Carolina.

He served as Moderator of Flat River Baptist Association, Oxford, N.C.; Member of Research Triangle Missions Committee of Baptist State Convention of N.C.; Member of "Impact 80" Committee of Baptist State Convention of N.C., Associational S.S. Director (Va.) Assoc. Music Director (Va.) Assoc. Youth Director (Ala. and Va.); Teaching Faculty of N.C. Baptist Assembly (2 times); Camp Pastor, Peaks of Otter R.A. Camp (Va.) Speaker at 50th Anniversary of Cooperative Program Baptist State Convention, N.C. 1974.

## PEPPER'S CREEK BAPTIST CHURCH



**PEPPER'S CREEK  
BAPTIST CHURCH**



**GEORGE GUINN**  
Pastor

The Pepper's Creek Baptist Church was organized over 100 years ago. Services were held in an old log building which was also the school building.

The present building was purchased from the McDowell County Board of Education on January 5, 1931 for \$45.00 by the Board of Trustees, which consisted of Sam McKinney, Robert Biddix, and J.T. McKinney. In the last ten years the church has installed a furnace, bought new church furniture, built rest rooms, built new Sunday School rooms, put siding on the church and painted outside.

The known Charter members were: J.T. McKinney, Sam McKinney, Robert Biddix, Cordelia Lowery, and Lena Biddix.

The following have served as Pastors during the period of 1914-1961:

Rev. Hayes	Rev. Sullins
Rev. Honeycutt	Rev. C.C. Parker
Rev. Sparks	Rev. Russell
Rev. Robertson	Rev. Sam Pyatt
Rev. Franklin	

Rev. George Guinn, the present pastor, has served from 1961. Rev. Guinn was released from West Court Baptist Church to do evangelistic work. He was ordained January 1, 1961, at Pepper's Creek Church. He is formerly from Bristol, Tennessee. He and his wife Margaret have four children and eight grandchildren. He has been employed by American Thread Company for almost thirty years.

## SUNNYVALE BAPTIST CHURCH



**REV. W.F. McMAHAN**  
First Pastor



**SUNNYVALE BAPTIST CHURCH**



**REV. JOHNNY D. JOHNSON**  
Pastor

The Sunnyvale Baptist Church was organized September 6, 1911 and joined Blue Ridge Association in 1929. Those who have served as pastors are:

W.F. McMahan	1911-1915	Jack Guffey	
Lee J. Jones		Adam Mills	1951-1953
W.S. Shuford	1915-1917	Roy Webb	1953-1955
B.B. Styles	1917-1928	Clyde Hall	1955-1957
W.F. McMahan	1928-1931	Adam Mills	1957-1960
H.H. Justice	1931-1932	H.H. Justice	1963-1970
Mr. Condrey	1932-1938	Johnny Johnson	1970-1972
Mr. Green	1938-1941	Ray Holland	1972-1978
Millard Hall	1941-1942	Johnny D. Johnson	1978-Present
Carl McKinney	1943-1945		

There has been one church building and the present membership is 73. Three preachers have been sent out by the church—Ricky Clayton, Doug Willis, Charles Thompson.

The following have served as Church Clerks: J.P. Padgett, Henry Johnston, Mattie McFalls, Mrs. W.H. Simmons, Regina Elliott, James Presnell, Mrs. James Presnell, & Ronnie Gentry.

Rev. Johnny D. Johnson, the present pastor, was born January 19, 1947 in Greenville, South Carolina to Harold and Virginia Johnson. He is married to the former Mildred Bartlett. They have two sons—Johnny Michael, age 11; and William Douglas, age 8. He was called to the ministry in March, 1970 and licensed by the Turkey Cove Baptist Church. He was called as pastor to Sunnyvale in May 1970 and in January 1972 returned to Turkey Cove and served as Church Training Director, Sunday School Teacher and Church bus driver. He worked closely with the young people of this church. He returned to Sunnyvale as Interim pastor November 19, 1978, then was elected as full-time pastor.

### **TURKEY COVE BAPTIST CHURCH**



**TURKEY COVE**  
*First Building*



**JESSE C. SORRELS**  
*First Pastor*



**TURKEY COVE BAPTIST CHURCH**



**REV. C.C. PARKER**  
*Pastor*

Turkey Cove Baptist Church was organized in 1885 in an old log schoolhouse as a result of a revival. The Charter members included Bill Buchanan, Perrell Hollifield, W.A. Biddix, Cordelia Biddix, Mona Hollifield, Bud Buchanan, and Nancy Buchanan. The present membership numbers 310.

✓ Rev. Jesse Sorrels was the first pastor. His father died when he was but 10 years old, and he had little formal education. In 1862 he joined the army and served until the end of the War Between the States. He married in 1868 and moved to Haywood County and joined the Pleasant Hill Baptist Church, where he became a deacon in 1871. In 1881 he became Sunday School Missionary of the Tennessee River Association. He served two years in this field, then moved back to Rutherford County. In 1886, when God took his young son, he responded to a long suppressed call of God to the ministry. In his first series of meetings, at the Holly Springs School House, lasting 15 days, 42 made a profession of faith and 17 of these joined the Mountain Creek Baptist Church. He was ordained in November, 1886. Mr. Sorrels served as pastor of several churches, but most of his time was spent as missionary in the Blue Ridge Mountains of McDowell County. Several churches were organized because of this man's ministry, among which are Clinchfield and Woodlawn Churches. Upon his death his nephew, Rev. Alonzo Sorrels was called to take his place.

Turkey Cove Baptist Church's pastors are:

Jesse C. Sorrels	1885-1900	Charlie Parker	1928-1935
A.P. Sorrels	1900-1904	James Hicks	1938-1939
J.R. Waycaster	1904-1909	Charlie Parker	1940-1941
J.R. Boone	1910-1911	Jim Street	1941
J.R. Waycaster	1911-1913	W.F. McMahan	1941-1946
W.F. McMahan	1913-1915	Charlie Parker	1946-1950
A.P. Sorrels	1915	Donald Wilson	1950-1954
J.R. Boone	1915-1916	Clifton Cooper	1954-1958
Stephen Shuford	1916-1919	Harold Johnson	1959-1960
J.R. Boone	1920-1924	Clifton Cooper	1961-1965
A.Y. Buchanan	1925-1926	Millard F. Hall	1966-1968
James Smith	1926-1928	Charlie Parker	1969-Present

Turkey Cove's Church Clerks included: W.W. Gouge, A.H. Lowery, Pink Hollifield, Charlie Hollifield, M.P. Lowery, A.H. Lowery, James Lowery, W.S. Hollifield, B.J. Hollifield, Lester Hollifield, Mamie Hollifield, Mary Hollifield, Lennie McKinney, Mamie Hollifield, and Lennie McKinney.

The first building, consisting of only one small room, was erected in 1887 where the present church now stands. In 1926 the old building was enlarged and remodeled, and in 1949 a new building was started. Service was held in the new church May 15, 1950. The outside was remodeled in 1957.

This church had joined the Green River Association in 1889, and was a charter member of the Blue Ridge Association.

✓ The present pastor of the church, Charles C. Parker, has pastored this church from time to time since 1928. He was born in McDowell County in 1898, and was one of ten children. He was reared in a Christian home of Methodist parents, he was converted at age fifteen. He soon felt the call to preach and was licensed. After studying his Bible and preparing himself for the preaching of the gospel, he felt led to join a Baptist church, and became a member of North Cove, here he was ordained a Baptist minister in 1926. In July of 1916 Mr. Parker married the former Bessie Huffman and God blessed this couple with eight children. Their fifty years of ministry has found them serving in 3 states in the following churches: Altapass, Beaver Creek, Gouges Creek, Mount Carmel, North Cove, Peppers Creek, Turkey Cove, Black Mountain, Chestnut Grove, Halltown, Cherry Springs, Second Baptist of Kings Mountain, Garden Creek, Bills Creek, Montford Cove, Gashes Creek of Asheville, Ebenezer Welcome of Landrum, S.C., Hazel Creek of Mt. Airy,

Georgia, Piedmont of Kings Mountain, Coopers Gap of Mill Spring. With very little formal training, Mr. Parker educated himself and, after his family was reared, he attended Fruitland Baptist Bible Institute and was in the first graduating class of that school. Only eternity will reveal the works wrought by the Parkers. They have been blessed by and used by God in a marvelous way.

Preachers that have been sent out from Turkey Cove Baptist Church include: W.S. Hollifield, Edward Hollifield, Clifford Earley, Johnny Johnson, Charles Hollifield, and Charles Dicks.

### WOODLAWN BAPTIST CHURCH

*Rev. Bill Williams, Pastor*  
*(Picture Not Available)*



FIRST BUILDING



PRESENT BUILDING

Woodlawn Baptist Church was organized in 1908 and was a Charter Member of Blue Ridge Baptist Association. Known Charter members are Doc Hicks, Sally Hollifield, Bob Baxter. They now have a membership of 106.

The present church building was built in 1959 and additions to the building made in 1969.

The following have served as Church Clerks at Woodlawn: M.L. Good, J.E. Jimerson, Esther Hollifield, Norma Byrd, L.D. Gouge, Fate Hollifield, Mrs. John Williams, Mrs. Elmer Ollis, Ann Greene, Magleen Gross.

Two preachers were sent out by Woodlawn Baptist Church. They were Bill Williams and Jack Thomas.

The following have served as pastors at Woodlawn:

Rubin Pittman	1908	George Hise	
John Waycaster		Sam Gouge	
Rev. Drake	1910	John Willis	
A.P. Sorrels		Paul Pittman	
L.L. Taylor	1927	L.B. Bishop	1957
Charles Ellis	1928	Clifford Early	1958
H.H. Justice	1930	Astor Buchanan	1963
A.G. Buchanan	1932	Clifford Early	1964
W.F. McMahan	1933	Roy Collins, Jr.	1965
S.W. Shuford	1935	John Gates	1967
D.T. McAbee	1937	Jack Thomas	1967
Waites Hollifield	1939	Garland Higgins	
Rev. Nunnaly		Fred Proctor	
H.H. Justice		Bill Williams	

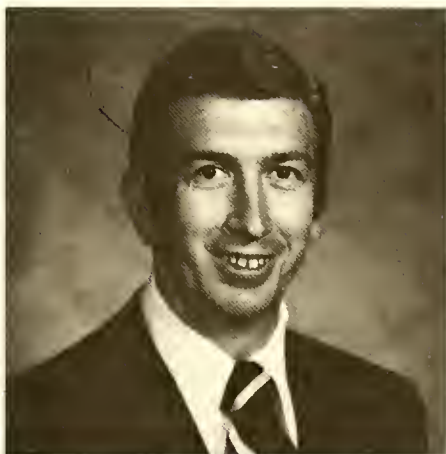
✓ The present pastor, Bill Williams, attended Harris High School in Spruce Pine and attended Fruitland Baptist Bible Institute. He is married to the former Gladys Byrd. They have two children: a son William Fred and a daughter Patricia Ann Owens.

Mr. Williams has pastored Riverside Baptist, Burke County; South Estoe, Yancy County; North Laurel Branch, Burke County; Hefner Memorial, McDowell County; Black Mountain, Mitchell County; Community Baptist, Burke County and presently at Woodlawn.

## ZION HILL BAPTIST CHURCH



**ZION HILL BAPTIST CHURCH**



**REV. O.L. KUYKENDALL**  
Pastor

The date of establishment of the Zion Hill Baptist Church, according to the minutes of the Green River Association, is dated as September 29th, 1854. Zion Hill was included in the list of churches reporting at the first annual meeting of the Blue Ridge Association in 1929.

In the year about 1862 the minutes of the association show a drop in membership in all of the churches, which was due, no doubt, to the fact that the Civil War was in progress. The following resolution adopted at the 1863 session with the Dysartsville Church is of interest.

“Whereas, we are still engaged in an unholy and unrighteous war waged against us by our common enemy, RESOLVED, that we make a request that our churches set apart 10 o'clock of their respective meeting on the Sabbath, and spend at least a half hour in prayer to Almighty God to protect our soldiers in the army, and for His kind protection from our common enemy, and for a speedy and honorable peace.”

Zion Hill Church originally was located where the Grady Evans' house now stands, which is half way between Sugar Hill Road and its present location. There is no record of the church owning property until 1903, at which time T.W. Pendergrass and Martha Pendergrass donated one acre of land to the church. Also, on September 8, 1911, land was given to the church by Mr. and Mrs. J.A. Cannon, and Mr. and Mrs. Lee H. Miller for a cemetery.

In the year 1936, Zion Hill failed to report to the association and had incomplete reports for 1937 and 1938 and failed to report in 1939, but during these years, services ceased to be held. In March of 1938, Franklin Justice reactivated the work and the church has shown steady progress ever since.

A new church building was erected in 1949, and in 1960 it was enlarged and remodelled.

The following have served as Pastors:

L. McCurry	G.A. Condrey
A.A. McSwain	M.A. Nunnally
R. Poston	J.E. Hill
J.F. Pendergrass	C.W. Greene
G.W. Harmon	Franklin Justice
S.H. Fleming	Albert Young
A.B. Washburn	George Anderson
G.W. Settlemyre	Martin Cable
Ephriam Buchanan	E.F. Sprinkle
A.P. Sorrels	Lloyd Gosnell
D.P. Lowdermilk	W.M. Belcher
Ralph Melton	Floyd Beaver
John Shipman	Dolph Robinson
M.C. Miller	Kenneth Faulkinbury
W.F. McMahan	O.L. Kuykendall

The present pastor of Zion Hill, Rev. O.L. Kuykendall, is a native of Haywood County. He graduated from Canton High in 1958, attended Fruitland Bible Institute and is a graduate of Tabernacle Bible Institute. He is presently a Junior at Gardner-Webb College, Boiling Springs, N.C. Mr. Kuykendall is married to the former Carolyn House and they have three children: Odis Leo Jr., Sherry Lee, and Tamara Gail. He served as pastor of the Good News Baptist Church in Candler for five years and came to Zion Hill as pastor April 1974.

# THE FOLLOWING CHURCHES HAVE JOINED THE BLUE RIDGE ASSOCIATION SINCE ITS ORGANIZATION

## LAUREL HILL BAPTIST CHURCH



**LAUREL HILL BAPTIST CHURCH**  
1938



**PRESENT BUILDING**

Laurel Hill Baptist Church was organized in 1931, and joined Blue Ridge Association that same year. Charter Members were: G.S. Price, Mary Price, Addie Price, C.W. Price, John Walker, Mrs. John Walker, Nelson Trumann, Ellen Trumann, Grover Walker, Mary Walker, Lelia Walker, Eleanor Ellington, Hobie Ellington and Mrs. Hobie Ellington. Present membership is 99.

A temporary building was built in 1931 and served as the church building until 1938 when the present building was built and has been remodeled twice since.

Two preachers were sent out by the church: Rev. C.A. Price and Rev. James Woodsby.

The following have served as church clerks: Mrs. Ben Foster, Mr. F.S. Price, Mr. C.Y. Pyatt, Mrs. L.W. McKinney, Mrs. Ben Foster, Miss Joyce Crawley, Mrs. Joan Freeman, Mrs. George Ellington and Mrs. Hal Baker.



**REV. LAWRENCE WESTALL**  
Pastor

Pastors that have served at Laurel Hill are as follows:

Ennis Lawing	1931-1935	David Chatham	1954-1957
Vance Snypes	1935-1936	Boyce Freeman	1957-1964
C.C. Tomblin	1936-1943	Auther Woodey	1964-1966
Franklin Justice	1943-1946	Garland Higgins	1966-1969
D.W. Hodge	1946	Earl Duncan	1969-1970
Graham Pascal		Glenn Ballard	1971-1972
Roy Webb		George Teague	1972-1974
Frank Sisk		O.B. Hammond	1974-1978
L.B. Bishop	1953-1954	Lawrence Westall	1978-

The present pastor, Rev. Lawrence Westall, was born in Marion, N.C. He and his wife, Estelle, have three sons: Robert, Larry and Norris. He has attended West Marion Baptist Church and Rolands Chapel Baptist Church. He has pastored the following churches: Rockdale Missionary Baptist Church, Mitchell County, July 1975-76; Blue Rock Baptist Church, Yancy County, North Carolina, August 1976-August 1978; came to Laurel Hill as pastor in August 1978.

## BETHEL BAPTIST CHURCH



**BETHEL CHURCH**



**REV. THOMAS SISK**  
Pastor

The Bethel Baptist Church was organized in 1801 by a Presbytery consisting in part of Elder Permitter Morgan and Ambrose Carleton. There have been four church buildings. The date the first was built is not known. The second was built in 1883 and the third building in 1905. The fourth and present building was built in 1967.

In 1840 Bethel was 1 of the 3 organized churches in McDowell County. Bethel was a charter member of the Green River Association which was organized in 1840 and was a member of the Green River Association for 92 years. Bethel joined the Blue Ridge Association in 1932.

Five members from Bethel served and died in the Confederate Army during the Civil War. J.P. Goforth was killed in the Battle of Shephard Town. Leander C. Nichols died in a hospital in Richmond Va. in 1862. Marion Davis age 23, wounded in the Battle of Chancellarsville and died in Windsor Hospital in Richmond, Va. on May 16, 1863, Burgner Miller killed in the Battle of Chancellarsville. Davis Bright died in a Georgia Hospital December 20, 1863.

Bethel now has a total membership of 202. The known preachers sent out by the church are Lloyd Shell and Eugene Lawing.

The following have served as church clerks: J.C. Grayson, J.A. Bird, John H. Morris, James M. Raburn, A.B. Mashburn, J.D. Morris, E.G. Goforth, W.C. Morris, L.A. Raburn, T.H. Thorn, R.P. Morris, F.P. Morgan, O.B. Morgan, Lona Hensley, R.A. Pickens, Dexter Vaughn, Kelton Simmons, Howard Lawing, Allie Lawing, Mrs. K.M. Eplee, Bernice Wilson, Myrtle Cannon, and Virginia Lawing.

Pastors that have served are:

Perminster Morgan	1801-1824	G.G. O'Neill	1912-1915
Alford Webb	1831-1837	A.P. Sorrels	1916-1919
J.C. Grayson	1837-1841	J.M. Brown	1919-1923
Wade Hill	1841-1843	M.L. Buchanan	1923-1925
Elder Pendergrass	1843-1846	D.J. Hunt	1926-1928
Bailey Bruce	1846-1853	E.P. White	1928-1931
J.C. Grayson	1855-1871	C.G. Grogan	1931-1936
L. McCurry	1871-1873	W.F. McMahan	1936-1947
J.C. Grayson	1874-1883	Frank Early	1947-1949
W.H. Logan	1883-1889	Clyde R. Green	1949-1953
H.D. Harrill	1889-1892	Carl Allen	1953-1954
J.C. Sorrels	1892-1897	Wray Hill	1955-1956
H.D. Harrill	1897-1899	Toy Wadell	1957-1958
C.B. Justice	1899-1901	Fred Travis	1958-1959
C.S. Cashwell	1901-1903	Ray Caldwell	1959-1961
A.P. Sorrels	1903-1905	Sumpter West	1961-1969
D.J. Hunt	1905-1907	Edgar Smith	1969-1970
J.W. Whittle	1907-1909	Marvin Greenway	1971-1975
D.J. Hunt	1909-1911	Thomas Sisk	1975-Present
F.M. Huggins	1911-1912		

Thomas Sisk came as pastor to Bethel Church in 1975. He was born September 1, 1938 in Rutherford County. He was educated in Ellenboro High School, Isothermal Community College, Fruitland Baptist Bible Institute and Mars Hill College. He was ordained into the Ministry by Mt. Pleasant Baptist Church, Rutherford County. He and his wife, Melba, have two sons: Gene and Vance. They have one grandson. He has also pastored Pilgrim Baptist Church, Ellenboro and Forest Lake Baptist Church, Forest City, N.C.

## MACEDONIA BAPTIST CHURCH



MACEDONIA BAPTIST CHURCH



REV. RICHARD PORTER  
Pastor

The Macedonia Baptist Church was organized on September 20, 1887, through the influence of Camp Creek Baptist Church of Rutherford County, by a presbytery composed of the Rev. J.E. King, the Rev. J.C. Sorrels, Deacons B. Biggerstaff, G.W. Guffey, James Barnes and Thomas Johnson. The organizational meeting was held in a log store building near the present J.H. Sprouse home then known as the Upton Place.

The newly organized church, which had 12 charter members, was named "The Brackettown Church" and became a member of the Green River Association until joining the Blue Ridge Association in 1934.

Shortly after the church was organized the meeting place was moved to the Macedonia Schoolhouse and was renamed "The Macedonia Baptist Church". Services were held here until 1896 when the present church building was completed. Rooms and other additions and improvements have been made and they now have a membership of 137.

Rev. David Dowdle was sent out by the church to preach.

The following have served as Pastors:

A.B. Mashburn	1887-1908	D.W. Hodge	1936-1942
B.B. Harris	1908-1914	Wade Ruff	1942-1946
R.L. Limerick	1914-1917	J.J. Guffey	1946-1952
J.L. Hodge	1917-1923	David Chatham	1952-1953
J.W. Wise	1923-1954	Roscoe Huntley	1953-1958
J.L. Hodge	1924-1925	Cecil Smith	1958-1965
W.R. White	1925-1928	Paul Stepp	1966-1969
J.H. Smith	1928-1929	Cecil Smith	1969-1971
H.C. Culbreth	1929-1931	Sam Pless	1971-1974
M.V. Snipes	1931-1935	J.D. Plemmons	1974-1977
R.R. Cooke	1935-1936	Richard Porter	1977-

Rev. Richard Porter, present pastor of Macedonia, was licensed to preach on May 4, 1963 and ordained December 20, 1964, by the Corunna Road Baptist Church, Flint Michigan. In 1964 the Mt. Morris Baptist Church of Mt. Morris Michigan called him as pastor. He attended Fruitland Baptist Bible Institute from 1967-1970. He was pastor at Jonas Ridge Baptist Church in the Avery Association from 1968-1973. He returned to Corunna Road Church in Michigan as pastor until 1974. He worked in Mission work until he was called by the Macedonia Baptist Church in 1977. He and his wife, Gladys, have six children: Rickey Jr., Alice, Becky, Randy, Jeffery and Jennifer.

**WEST MARION BAPTIST CHURCH**



**WEST MARION BAPTIST CHURCH**



**REV. W. C. KELLER & WIFE**  
*Pastor*

The West Marion Baptist Church was organized July 7, 1935 and joined Blue Ridge Association in 1936. The following were Charter Members: Mr. & Mrs. S.E. Collins, Lottie, Pauline, Helen and Ethel Collins, Rev. & Mrs. J.E. Hill, Annie and Edith Bailey, Guy Cheek, Lucille Chapman, Maggie Hollifield, and Mamie Hollifield Edwards. Mrs. Mamie Hollifield Edwards is the only charter member still attending the church. The present membership is 215. There have been two church buildings. The first building in 1936 and the second in 1949. Preachers sent out by the church are Rev. Roy Webb, Rev. Jack Thomas, Rev. Denzil Adams, and Rev. J.D. Plemmons. The following have served as Church Clerks:

Mr. J.E. Hill	Mrs. Harold Young
Edith Bailey	Mrs. Betty Hawkins
Mr. A.L. Hawkins	Selma Thomas
Mrs. S.E. Collins	Mrs. Winslow Pendergrass
Mrs. Ethel England	Mrs. Andrew Sherlin
Mrs. J.M. Early	Mrs. Britt Elliott
Mr. Anderson Williams	Mrs. Wilma Ledbetter
Mrs. R.G. Brown	

Pastors that have served at West Marion are:

M.W. Adams	1935	H.W. Rumfelt	1951-1954
W.F. McMahan	1936-1943	J.B. Strange	1955-1959
Dewey Hodge	1944	W.G. Keller	1960-Present
Franklin Justice	1945-1951		

✓ The present pastor, W.C. Keller was born in Henrietta, N.C. September 22, 1917. He is married to the former Helen Anne Williams. They have a son, David Roger, who is a Dr. of Clinical Psychology. Rev. Keller is a graduate of Rutherfordton-Spindale High School and attended Fruitland Baptist Bible Institute. He also attended Gardner-Webb College. He surrendered to preach May 15, 1945. He pastored Floyd's Creek Baptist Church, Forest City for 3½ years, and has been at West Marion for 18 years. He served as Moderator of Blue Ridge Association 1973-1974 and has served as president of the Pastor's Conference and on various committees of the association.

**GLENWOOD BAPTIST CHURCH**



**GLENWOOD BAPTIST CHURCH**



**W. MIKE POOLE**  
Pastor

Glenwood Baptist Church was organized December 23, 1909 at a meeting held at the school building. The following ministers and deacons from the neighboring churches formed themselves into a Presbytery for the purpose of organizing a church: Rev. A.B. Mashburn, Deacons J.H. Rayburn, J.F. Morgan and M.C. Morgan of the Bethel Baptist Church; Rev. D.J. Hunt of Round Hill Baptist; Rev. R.H. Herring of Rutherfordton Baptist Church; Rev. A.P. Sorrels, Deacon J.H. Greer of Chapel Hill Baptist Church; Deacon A.E. Rowe of Harmony Grove Baptist Church; Deacon J.S. Hamton of Mountain Creek Baptist Church.

Twenty-six people joined the church on this date; they were: T.W. Brackett, Mrs. T.W. Brackett, Robert Brackett, Annie Brackett, Maggie Lou Brackett, J.A. Bird, Mrs. J.A. Bird, J.C. England, W.L. Ferguson, Mrs. W.L. Ferguson, W.A. Goforth, Mrs. W.A. Goforth, Thelma Goforth, Maggie E. Goforth, S.A. Leonard, Mrs. A.S. Leonard, Ola Leonard, Maggie Link, G.R. Morris, A.P. Poteat, Mrs. S.E. Poteat, L.A. Rayburn, Mrs. L.A. Rayburn, Vina Rayburn and Annie Thornbury.

The church joined the Green River Association in the year of 1910 appointing W.A. Goforth and L.A. Rayburn as the first delegates. During the year of 1937 the church moved its membership from the Green River to the Blue Ridge Association.

The first building was built in 1910 and served until 1926. This building was destroyed by fire on January 11, 1931. After this building was burned a wood building was erected at the present location and occupied in the spring of 1931. This building served until being replaced by the present auditorium in 1961. An educational building was built in 1953 and a recreation building in 1970. They now have a membership of 288.

Gerald Hilton was licensed to preach by the Glenwood Baptist Church.

On May 1, 1978 the first full-time Minister of Youth, Randy Bridges, was called.

Pastors that have served:

D.S. Hunt	1909-1911	Frank Early	1948-1950
F.M. Huggins	1911-1912	Clyde Green	1950-1953
G.G. O'Neil	1912-1918	Millard Hall	1953
J.M. Brown	1918-1923	Watson Abrams	1954
J.T. Bowman	1923	Joe Reece	1955-1959
P.J. Shell	1923-1924	C.J. Piercy	1959-1963
D.J. Hunt	1924-1926	W.F. Payne	1963-1968
J.M. Brown	1927-1934	Timothy Horldt	1968-1974
Paul Reece	1934-1941	Ray Hooper	1974-1977
Millard Hall	1941-1943	Mike Poole	1978-
R.L. Smith	1943-1947		

Clerks that have served: L.A. Rayburn, Otis Silver, Max Poteat, Cecil Rayburn, Romelda Westmoreland, Jo Burgin, Loretta Cable, Clara Rayburn, Vickie Morgan, and Pat Greer.

✓ Rev. W. Mike Poole became pastor of Glenwood Baptist Church on August 1, 1978. Rev. Poole is a native of Abbeville, South Carolina. He and his wife, Alice Mize, were residing in Union, South Carolina when they married in 1969. They have two sons, Michael and Travis, who were born at Shaw Air Force Base, South Carolina, while Rev. Poole was in the military. Following military service he continued his studies at the University of South Carolina and received the bachelors degree in Social and Behavioral Sciences. Afterward, he attended Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary and received the Master of Divinity degree. Rev. Poole has pastored churches in South Carolina and Virginia, most recently. Mrs. Poole has served as secretary and editor for the Dan River Baptist Association in Virginia. Rev. Poole has served as chaplain for area fire departments and an Emergency Medical Technician in Virginia. He is currently a chaplain in the Army Reserves. He presently is Associational Sunday School Director.

## STONE MOUNTAIN BAPTIST CHURCH



**FIRST BUILDING**



**PRESENT BUILDING**

Stone Mountain Missionary Baptist Church was organized in 1870 and first met in Sam Elliott's house on Buffalo Creek in Rutherford County. Preaching was held on Saturday and Sunday once a month, and William Logan, the church's first pastor, rode a horse and came from Bill's Creek community to preach. The first people buried in the cemetery were Negro slaves. The old log church was torn down and a frame church built around the turn of the century. In April of 1960 work was started on the present building. It is said the reason the church was organized was an earthquake shook the mountains and frightened the people into joining together in this manner.

In 1905 Stone Mountain Church joined the Green River Baptist Association, and, in 1937 became a member of the Blue Ridge Baptist Association.

The charter members of this church included Mrs. Maggie Ledbetter.

The Church Clerks were Mrs. Bessie Davis, Mrs. Maggie Ledbetter, Mrs. Roy Davis, Mrs. Georgia Vess, James Davis, Lloyd Vess, Ray Grindstaff, Miss Ann Morris, Mrs. Cathy Davis, Mrs. Lois Murphy.

Mr. Cecil Smith and Mr. Lawson Cope were two of the men who were sent out to preach by the church.

The earlier pastors included Revs. William Logan, Hayden Taylor, J.I. Moffitt, Bartlett, T.K. Brown, Elbert Jackson, Bun Whitesides, Hayes, Fletcher Simmons, Buckner, Max Summey, Clarence Gilliam, Luther Kirstein, and T.K. Brown. Listing the more recent pastors and dates of service:



**REV. CECIL BROWN**  
*Pastor*

Franklin Justice	1939-1949	Ralph Gouge	1961-1962
Jack Guffey, Sr.	1949-1951	Clarkson McKinney	1962-1963
Joe Datson	1951-1952	Cecil Brown	1967-1969
Jack Guffey, Jr.	1952-1953	Buster King	1970
Frank Hollifield	1953-1955	Cecil Brown	1970-1974
Cecil Smith	1955-1959	Howard Michaels	1974-1975
Paul Hyder	1959-1961	Cecil Brown	1975-Present

The present pastor of Stone Mountain, Cecil Brown, was born in Old Fort, N.C. and attended Old Fort School. He served in the Air Force in 1946. He answered the call into the ministry August 25, 1965, after having served as a Deacon at Bethlehem Baptist Church. He attended Fruitland Baptist Bible Institute. Cecil and his wife, Frances have five children. He has pastored churches in Marion, Old Fort, and Black Mountain, N.C.

**SUNNY GROVE BAPTIST CHURCH**  
*Rev. Kenneth Ray Hall, Pastor*  
*(Picture Not Available)*

The Sunny Grove Baptist Church was organized October 15, 1935. There were representatives from Bethel, Cross Mill, Chapel Hill, Greenlee, Harmony Grove, Mt. Harmony, North Cove, and West Marion. Rev. G.A. Condrey called the meeting to order and was elected Moderator with Rev. J.E. Hill chosen as Clerk. The assembly took vows to cooperate as a Missionary Baptist Church in the Association.

The following were Charter Members of Sunny Grove Church: Wilburn Queen, Laurence Queen, Mr. & Mrs. B.R. Foster, Mrs. Glen Bullock, Mr. & Mrs. Alonzo Lawing, Mr. & Mrs. John Foster, A.B. Ruppe. Those received into the church following the organization were Mr. & Mrs. J.W. Queen, Mrs. Lona Foster, Miss Effie Walker, and Mrs. Neil Turnbull.

The new church was dedicated October, 1944. Through the years improvements and additions have been made to the church.

The following have served as Church Clerks at Sunny Grove: Wilburn Queen, Hattie Queen, Glen Bullock, Edna Smith, Mattie Blackburn, Betty Newton, Effie Blackburn, Thelma Price.

In 1944 the first delegates to the association were chosen.

Pastors that have served at Sunny Grove are:

G.A. Condrey	1935-1938	Luther Bishop	1955-1962
W.K. Wyatt	1938-1940	David Chatham	1962-1964
J.L. Reddy	1940-1943	Kelce Hollifield	1964-1967
Robert Early	1944-1955	Denzil Adams	1967-1972
LeRoy Smith	1955	Kenneth Ray Hall	1972

The present pastor, Kenneth Ray Hall was born April 19, 1929. He married Alva Maney



**PRESENT BUILDING**

from Clay County on July 22, 1950. They have three children: Jackie, Sandra and Debra. Rev. Hall attended Eugene Cross School in Marion, N.C. and completed studies at Fruitland Baptist Bible Institute in 1965. He pastored the Parkers Chapel Church for 1 year, 4 months; North Marion Mission (now Grandview) for 3½ years; Hankins Baptist Church for 4½ years; and came to Sunny Grove July 1972.

## WEST COURT STREET BAPTIST CHURCH



**FIRST BUILDING**



**PRESENT BUILDING**  
*Rev. Bill Bryant, Pastor*

The West Court Street Baptist Church was organized February, 1947, however it's beginning started some years before in 1939 when Rev. Herman Martin of Spindale, N.C. came to Marion and brought a large tent and held a tent revival on a lot of the Guy Estate on West Court Street. In the later part of 1940, the tent congregation voted to buy a lot from the Guy Estate and erect a wooden building to be called the People's Gospel Tabernacle. In 1944 a better place of worship was erected and the congregation voted to organize into West Court Street Missionary Baptist Church in late 1946. Charter members were: Tull Hollifield, Bill Kent, Nathan Burnette, Ransom Wilson, Grayson Silvers, A.H. Mitchem, and C.C. Lawing. West Court now has a membership of 371.

The first pastor of the West Court Street Baptist Church was Rev. Julius Henline. He served as pastor from March 1947 to 1950. Rev. Ray Long served as pastor from August 1950 to 1962. The present pastor, Rev. Billy Bryant, has been pastor since January 1963.

The new church building at West Court Street was dedicated September 10, 1978.

The following have served as Church Clerks: Clarence Black, Glenn Parker, and Travis Proctor.

Frank Ellis, Cecil McKinney, Woodrow Brown, Fred Proctor, Henry Wheeler, Tommy Walker, Gregg Grant were the preachers sent out by the church.

## HANKINS BAPTIST CHURCH



**REV. H.H. JUSTICE**  
*First Pastor*



**PRESENT BUILDING**

Hankins Baptist Church was organized August 31, 1947 under the leadership of Rev. M.O. Owens, Jr., pastor of Marion First Baptist Church. Hankins Baptist joined the Blue Ridge Baptist Association in September, 1947. The original church building was built in 1948-49 and is still in use for church or community meetings when needed. The new sanctuary and one wing classrooms were completed in 1971. An additional wing was added in 1977, at which time the sanctuary was enlarged and air conditioned.

The charter members of this church were: Mrs. David Burnett, Mrs. Eunice Burnett Stepp, Mrs. Pauline Queen, Mr. Roy Bartlette, Mrs. Roy Bartlette, Mr. James Bartlette, Mrs. Betty Bartlette Lewis, Mrs. Betty Burnette Gardner, Mr. G.A. Condry, Mrs. G.A. Condry, Mrs. Evelyn Cooper Burnette, Mrs. J.R. Hollifield, Mrs. Dorothy Mills Harring, and Mrs. Shirley Queen.

Church Clerks include Mrs. David Burnette, Mrs. Pauline Queen, Mrs. Kathleen Burnette, Mrs. Becky Herrell, Mrs. Bill Lewis, and Mrs. Patricia M. Cline.

The church now consists of 233 resident members and 35 non-resident members, for a total of 268.

Sam Pless was ordained and licensed to preach by Hankins Baptist Church in 1955.

The pastors of this church were:



**REV. DAN GRIFFIN**  
*Pastor*

H.H. Justice	Sept., 1948 to 1952
Donald Wilson	Sept., 1952 to 1954
Virgil (Toby) Boone	Oct., 1954 to Mar., 1956
Harold Johnson	May, 1956 to 1959
R.R. Arrington	March, 1960 to 1961
Clifford Early	September, 1961
Rev. West	1963
Harold Johnson	1963 to 1964
Roy Collins, Jr.	October, 1964 to November, 1966
Ray Hall	January, 1967 to 1971
G. Hanford Hamby	January, 1972 to 1973
Don Stafford	December, 1973 to August, 1978
G. Hanford Hamby	(Interim Pastor)
Dan Griffin	Feb. 4, 1979 to present

Rev. Dan Griffin, present pastor, was born and reared in Charleston, South Carolina. Upon graduation from First Baptist High School in Charleston, he entered Clemson University. He received a B.A. degree with a major in history and a minor in Speech. After graduation from Clemson, he enrolled in Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary. He graduated in May of 1978 with a Masters of Divinity Degree. He worked at Ridgecrest Baptist Conference Center for nine months prior to coming to Hankins Baptist Church. Rev. Griffin was married in 1975 to Edith Fallaw. Mrs. Griffin is a graduate of Clemson University with a B.A. in secondary education-math. She has taught for two years prior to their move to Marion and is now teaching in Marion.

## SUGAR HILL BAPTIST CHURCH



**FIRST BUILDING**



**PRESENT BUILDING**



**REV. C.C. TOMBLIN**  
*First Pastor*



**REV. MILLARD HALL**  
*Present Pastor*

Sugar Hill Baptist Church was organized on November 27, 1947 in the home of Joe H. Swann. The following were the charter members: J.P. Cable, Mollie Cable, Dee Cable, Polly Cable, Ethel Cable Greene, Annie Shell, Ruby Shell, Joe H. Swann, Hattie Swann, Helen Swann, Ruby Swann, James Swann, Willie Swann, H.D. Montieth, Emma Montieth, Fred Marlowe, Ruby Marlowe, Myrtle Cable, Leona Cable. The present membership is 195.

The first meeting place of the Sugar Hill Church was the smoke house of Dee Cable's, the next building was a small wooden building with a dirt floor, then a block building in use about 15 years, then the present building, built in 1966.

The following have served as Clerks at Sugar Hill: Ethel Cable Greene, Harold Swann, Eloise Marlowe, George Marlowe, Ana Lee Lawing, Fern Ledbetter, Grace Marlowe, Ella Mae Padgett, Betty Greene, Bertie Padgett, Georgia McClure, Clara Ledford, and Ruby Cable.

Bruce Franklin, Jesse Bright, Woodrow Cable, David Bradley, and Jack Marlowe were the preachers sent out by the church.

The following have served as Pastors:

C.C. Tomblin	1947-1950	J.D. Plemmons	1959-1963
George Anderson	1950-1952	Lloyd Shell	1964-1969
Harold Cable	1952-1954	James Beaver	1969
Jesse Bright	1954-1956	Eugene Ridley	1970-1971
Harold Cable	1956-1957	Eulas Adkins	1971-1974
Sam Pless	1957-1959	Millard F. Hall	1975-Present

The present pastor, Millard F. Hall was born on September 10, 1918 in Old Fort, N.C. He is the son of C.C. Hall and Nanny Walker Hall. He is married to Eula Lonon Hall. They have three children: Betty Harris, Millard F. Jr., and Susan Good, and 4 grandchildren.

Millard was educated in Marion City Schools, Gardner-Webb College, New Orleans Baptist Seminary, and Fruitland Baptist Bible Institute. He was licensed and ordained by the East Marion Baptist Church and has been in the ministry for 39 years. He has pastored the following churches: Glenwood (two pastorates), North Cove, Sunny Vale, Chapel Hill, (two pastorates) Turkey Cove, and Grandview, all in the Blue Ridge Association. Also served Bordeaux in Nashville, Tenn.; Green River, Piedmont and Montford Cove in the Green River Association; West Canton, Canton, N.C.; Orchard Street, Mayo, S.C.; Creech Memorial, Ahoskie, N.C.

## VEIN MOUNTAIN BAPTIST CHURCH



**REV. W.B. CRAIG AND WIFE**  
*First Pastor*



**VEIN MOUNTAIN  
BAPTIST CHURCH**

In September, 1945, Rev. W.B. Craig began holding services in a dwelling at a place known as Polly's Spout. The meetings continued until 1946, when land was bought from Mr. Clint Simmons. The construction of a church building started. In 1947 the first service was held in the nearly completed building. The church was organized and known as the Vein Mountain Baptist Church. Rev. Craig was called as first pastor. Mr. W.R. Stone and Mr. J.E. Gordon were the first elected Deacons.

There were eleven charter members. Those living are: Virginia Gordon, Ruth Stone, Bill Stone, Frances Stone, Shirley Lewis, High Ward, and Mrs. Mabel Parker.

In April 1963 a decision was made to build a new and larger building as the membership was rapidly growing. The land was donated by Mrs. Sibyl H. Darlington. The first service was held in the new building on April 26, 1964. In 1971 a wing was added which included assembly room, pastor's study, seven classrooms, two additional bathrooms. They now have a membership of 299.

In 1969, the church ordained Eugene Ridley for the work of the Ministry. Mrs. J.E. Gordon and Mrs. Dorothy Lane have served as Church Clerks.

Pastors that have served at Vein Mountain are the following:

W.B. Craig	1947-1948
D.C. Hardin	1948-1962
Ralph Gouge	1962-1976
John B. Hodge	Interim 1977
William H. White, Jr.	1977



**REV. WILLIAM H. WHITE, JR.**  
*Pastor*

The present pastor, William H. White was pastor at Mount Whitaker Baptist Church, Blacksburg, S.C. from August 1965 until April 1977. He and his wife Shirley, have three children: Mrs. Anne Howell, Lynn and Timothy. Rev. White presently serves as Baptist Hospital Representative for the Blue Ridge Association, and also a member of the Constitutional Change Committee.

**CALVARY BAPTIST CHURCH**



**REV. G.A. PROPST**  
*First Pastor*



**REV. SAM PLESS**  
*Present Pastor*

Calvary Baptist Church was organized November 20, 1949, as a result of a group of people leaving Hicks Chapel Baptist Church on August 21, 1949. Services were held in the home of Dexter Wood, then moved into a tent on 221 North. They moved services to a store building owned by George Smith, from whom land was purchased and the church was built. They are now in the process of remodeling and enlarging the building. The present membership is 52.

The Charter Members of Calvary Church were:

Mr. & Mrs. Ralph Hoover  
Bob & Bill Hoover  
Mrs. Celia Wilson  
Mrs. Viola Burnett  
Betty Ann Burnett  
Louise Lavender  
Delores Lavender  
Edna Lavender  
Mr. & Mrs. Ranz Lavender

Mr. & Mrs. Dexter Wood  
Pansy Wilson  
Mr. & Mrs. Thomas Willis, Jr.  
Mr. & Mrs. G.A. Propst  
Mr. & Mrs. Joe Thomas  
Mrs. W.A. Caroway  
Mr. & Mrs. George Smith  
Mr. & Mrs. Robert Good

The following have served as Church Clerks: Mrs. Ralph Hoover, Mrs. Ranz Lavender, Mrs. J.A. Bright, Mrs. Frank Miller, Mrs. Vick Crawley, Mrs. Lee Queen.

Pastors that have served are:

G.A. Propst	1949-1952
Clyde Green	1952-1954
Alvin Leonard	1954-1969

Herman Buchanan  
Sam Pless

1970-1975  
1976-Present

The present pastor, Sam Pless, graduated Bethel High School in Canton, N.C. He attended Fruitland Baptist Bible Institute. He is married to Jane Cathey. They reside on Reservoir Road in Marion, N.C. Rev. Pless has pastored in the following churches: Mt. Pleasant, Sugar Hill, Catawba Heights, and Macedonia in McDowell County; Lake James in Burke County; Welcome Hill, Canton, N.C.

## FAITH BAPTIST CHURCH



**PRESENT BUILDING**



**REV. VIRGIL BRADBURN**  
*Pastor*



**REV. JOHN CROUCH**  
*First Pastor*

Faith Missionary Baptist Church was organized June 18, 1950. Faith was first started in an old building owned by R.V. Snipes at Nebo and later moved to a house owned by Glen Pyatt. They later moved to a dwelling owned by a Mr. Moore near the present location. They moved into the present building June, 1954. Faith joined the Blue Ridge Baptist Association in October, 1952. They now have a membership of 74. Charter members are Mrs. C.S. Wells; Jean, Joan, Betty Sue, Alma and Donald Wells; Mr. & Mrs. Ralph Willis; Mr. & Mrs. Roy Morgan; Mrs. Hessie Turpin; Dean Fincher; Howard, Charles and Gladys Morgan; Rev. & Mrs. John P. Crouch; Mrs. Carrie Boone; Mrs. Raye Boone; Mrs. Lula Curry; Miss Doris Curry; Mr. & Mrs. Glen Pyatt.  
preach from Faith November 25, 1956.

Pastors that have served are:

John P. Crouch  
Jess Hall  
Virgil Bradburn

1950-1958  
1958-1960  
1960-Present

The following have served as Church Clerks: Miss Betty Sue Wells, Mrs. C.S. Wells, Mr. Harold Rumpfelt, and Mrs. Nora Presnell.

Virgil W. Bradburn, the present pastor, was called into the Ministry at age 37. He preached at the Prison Camp for 10 years. He has pastored at Catawba Falls and Catawba Heights Churches in this association and served as Interim Pastor of Nebo Baptist Church. He and his wife, Mrs. Elma Oliver Bradburn, have three children: Virgil Wayne Bradburn, Jr., Mrs. John M. Hemphill Jr., and Mrs. Robert A. Byrd, Jr., one deceased son, David Lee Bradburn and they have four grandchildren.

## HEFNER MEMORIAL BAPTIST CHURCH



**HEFNER MEMORIAL  
BAPTIST CHURCH**



**REV. HAROLD O. BURLESON**  
*Pastor*

The Hefner Memorial Baptist Church was established in 1950 and came into the Blue Ridge Association in full fellowship in 1951. The first building used was the Robbin's Packing House. Later in 1951 the present building was built. Land was acquired from the Chapman family. Mrs. Augusta Chapman, presently the Church's oldest member, was formerly a Hefner so the church would be called Hefner Memorial Baptist Church.

Charter Members were: Bill Misenhelder, Ruby Misenhelder, Mary Sills, Issac Phillips, Julia Phillips, Troy Cresawn, Mildred Cresawn, J.B. Holtsclaw, Mrs. George Ingle, and Cora Isral. They now have a total membership of 84.

Those that have served as church clerks are: Mrs. Ruby Misenhelder, Mrs. Jesse Williams, Mrs. Troy Cresawn, Mildred Cresawn, Mrs. Rebecca Gross, Mrs. Jessie Sneed, Mrs. Carl Howard.

# Pastors who have served:

Ernest Bustle	1951	Bill Williams	1968-1971
Clifford Cable	1952-1953	Lawrence Glenn	1971-1974
Ned Hughes	1954	Van Grindstaff	1974-1975
Ernest Bustle	1955	George Williams	1976-1978
Frank Brown	1956-1957	Harold Burleson	1978-Present
Steve Clark	1959-1968		

In 1977 a lot behind the church was purchased for a future parsonage.

The present pastor, Harold Odell Burleson, was born June 26, 1940 to Mr. & Mrs. Odell Burleson of Spruce Pine, N.C. He graduated from Harris High School at Spruce Pine in 1958. After graduation he served in the United States Army from 1958 until 1961. He married the former Margaret Singleton in 1963. They have three children: Dennis, age 14; Dale, age 7; and Nina, age 5. He was a Deacon in Community Baptist Church of Morganton from 1971 until 1975 when he announced his call to preach. He was called to pastor Hefner Memorial in September, 1978. He was ordained by Woodlawn Baptist Church, Marion, N.C.

## MOUNT PLEASANT BAPTIST CHURCH



**MOUNT PLEASANT  
BAPTIST CHURCH**



**REV. HOWARD REVIS**  
*Pastor*

Mount Pleasant Baptist Church was organized in 1950 in a house belonging to Mr. Harrison Hall of the Sugar Hill section. The church started as a prayer group who was holding special prayer meetings, led by Rev. Ted Laney. The organization was led by Jack Whitesides and C.C. Tomblin. The first pastor was Ted Laney. Mount Pleasant joined the Blue Ridge Association in 1952.

The move into the newly erected building was made in 1951. Several years later there were four new classrooms and two restrooms added.

Mount Pleasant survived a destructive flood in June of 1976. The creek which flows behind the church overflowed its banks and much damage was done to the inside of the church and the parking area was washed away. Because of the danger of future flooding the church family is working on a building fund to be able to build another building on a sixteen acre lot on a hill above the creek overlooking the Goose Creek section. Known Charter Members of Goose Creek Church were: Mr. & Mrs. George Gardner, Mr. & Mrs. Dewey Rumfelt, Doris Rumfelt, Donald Woodby, and Mr. Hall.

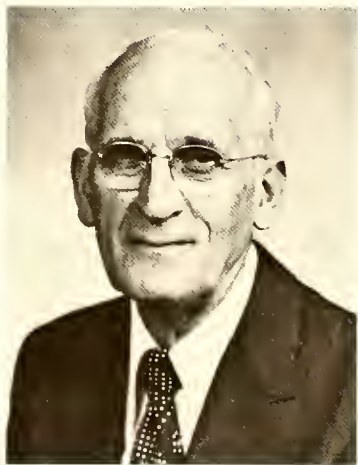
Pastors that have served at Mount Pleasant:

Ted Laney	1951-1952	J.D. Plemmons	1964-1969
Bruce Franklin	1952-1953	Clyde Hall	1969-1973
Wayne Cable	1953-1954	Millard Kiser	1973-1974
Clyde Greene	1954-1957	Robert Greene	1974-1977
Sam Pless	1957-1959	Howard Revis	1977-
Kelce Hollifield	1959-1964		

The following have served as church clerks: Doris Rumfelt, Virginia Lawing, Rena Shuford, Charles Cable, Melba Cable, Betty Cooke, Jean Chrisawn, and Ava Mae Jenkins.

Kenneth Howard Revis, the present pastor, came to Mount Pleasant on March 20, 1977. Rev. Revis comes from a family of fifteen children. He is the son of Mr. & Mrs. N.A. Revis and is married to the former Carolyn Terrell. They have three daughters: Mrs. Randy (Nancy Lail, Karen and Patti Revis. Mrs. Revis is a graduate of Hairdressers Academy in Morganton and is self-employed. Mr. Revis is a graduate of Nebo High School and Fruitland Baptist Bible Institute. He served as a Deacon of the Nebo Church for eight years and as a member of the Executive Committee. He is presently the Music Director for the Blue Ridge Baptist Pastor's Conference and Treasurer of the McDowell Baptist Camp Meeting.

CATAWBA HEIGHTS BAPTIST CHURCH



REV. VIRGIL BRADBURN  
*First Pastor*



CATAWBA HEIGHTS  
BAPTIST CHURCH

## CATAWBA HEIGHTS BAPTIST CHURCH

The Catawba Heights Baptist Church started as a Mission Sunday School under the sponsorship of the East Marion Baptist Church in 1950. The first mission service was held in the home of Mr. & Mrs. James Ferguson. As the mission grew, the homes of Mr. & Mrs. Jack Causby and Mr. & Mrs. Shelby Wyatt were also used for classes. These homes served as the Mission meeting places until 1952 when a house in the community was rented from Theodore Duncan for this purpose. During the summer of 1954, Rev. Richard Muse from the Southern Baptist Mission Board served as pastor. The block building was completed in December 1954 on the land purchased from Mr. R.L. Conley.



REV. RAY HOLLAND  
Pastor

The Mission met to organize a church on February 27, 1955. Charter members would include those persons presenting themselves for membership at this meeting, as well as those who join the church by March 27, 1955. They were: Mr. & Mrs. Jack Causby, Mrs. James Ferguson, Miss Jeanette Ferguson, Miss Betty Ferguson, Jimmy Ferguson, Miss Dianne Ferguson, Mr. & Mrs. James Gossett, Mr. & Mrs. James Gillispie, Mr. Willie Higgins, Mrs. Maggie Lee Jimison, Mr. & Mrs. Charles Krause, Miss Rachel Krause, Mrs. Josie Poteat, Mrs. Mary Sills, Mrs. Essie Simpson, Mr. & Mrs. Tom Whittington, Mr. Worth Womack, Mr. James Womack, Mr. & Mrs. Shelby Wyatt, Miss Elizabeth Wyatt, Miss Helen Wyatt, Miss Hazel Wyatt, and Miss Ann Williams.

Pastors who have served the Catawba Heights Baptist Church are:

Virgil Bradburn	1955-1957	R.R. Arrington	1968-1974
Earl Duncan	1957-1959	John Morrow	(Interim) 1974-75
Garland Higgins	1960-1965	Harold Sprinkle	1975-1977
Tull Hollifield	1965-1966	Ricky Clayton	(Interim) 1977-78
Sam Pless	1966-1968	Ray Holland	1978-

Men who have left Catawba Heights Church to become pastors are: John Morrow, Temple Baptist Church; John Church, Catawba Falls Baptist Church; Robert Vance, Roland's Chapel Baptist Church; Chris Clayton, River Valley Baptist Church, Burke County.

Those who have served as Church Clerks are Mrs. Jack D. Causby, Mrs. Shelby Wyatt, Mrs. Lydia Hughes, Mrs. Sam Pless, and Mrs. Shelby Wyatt, a second time.

Additions to the original block church, which now forms the right wing of the church, include the educational building, built in 1956, and the auditorium completed in 1974. They now have 256 members.

Ray Holland, the present pastor, was born in McDowell County August 4, 1938. He attended McDowell County School System, McDowell Tech., and Fruitland Baptist Bible Institute, Hendersonville. He is married to the former Gloria Ann Wise of Nebo and they have two children, Patricia Ann and Darrell Ray. He has pastored Eastwood Baptist Church, Spindale and Sunnyvale Baptist Church, Marion, N.C. He is past president of the Blue Ridge Pastor's Conference and is now Cooperative Program Representative for Blue Ridge Association.

## PARKER'S CHAPEL BAPTIST CHURCH



**FIRST PLACE OF WORSHIP**



**REV. FRANKLIN JUSTICE**  
*First Pastor*



**PARKER'S CHAPEL  
BAPTIST CHURCH**



**REV. CARL PARKER**  
*Pastor*

Parker's Chapel Baptist Church began as a Mission in 1954, sponsored by the Chapel Hill Baptist Church. The first Sunday School was conducted in a store building December 12, 1954. Rev. M.F. Hall, the associational missionary, taught the lesson, and S.T. Bowman acted as superintendent. The Mission was organized into a church August 12, 1956 with twenty charter members. They joined the Blue Ridge Association October 16, 1956. Rev. Franklin Justice served as first pastor. The church voted to purchase the Cole property (one and one half acres and a house) for \$3500.00. This was to be used for a house of worship. The construction of the present building began, with completion of the auditorium, Aug. 2, 1959. Classes continued to be held in the Cole house until Sunday School rooms were added and completed March 21, 1965. They have a present member-

ship of 51. Mr. Clarence Lawing and Mrs. B.W. Cogdill have served as Clerks.

Charter Members were: Mrs. S.T. Bowman, Mrs. George Kaylor, Marie Bowman Moody, Mr. Clarence Lawing, Mrs. Clarence Lawing, Mrs. Elizabeth Stevens, S.T. Bowman, George Kaylor, Nora Parker, Ellen Roberts, Kathleen Bartlett, Mrs. Junior Proctor, Robert Sparks, Jessie Sparks, Charlotte Sparks, Elizabeth Williams, Mrs. Frelan Goins Smith, Peggy Lawing Cook, J.C. Roberts, Grace Bartlett.

The following have served as Pastors:

Franklin Justice	1956-1957	Wray Hill	1965-1968
J.D. Plemmons	1957-1958	Fred Proctor	1968-1971
Worth Womick	1958-1961	Charles Hollifield	1971-1973
Ray Hall	1962-1963	Carl Parker	1973-Present
Roy Collins	1963-1964		

Carl Parker, the present pastor, was born on April 9, 1939 to Arthur and Geneva Webb Parker in Marion, N.C. He was educated in the Glenwood School and is a graduate of U.S.A.F. Institute. He attended Fruitland Baptist Bible Institute. He is married to the former Jo Ann Freeman of Landrum, S.C. They have three children—Eddie, 11 years old; Carla Jo, 7 years; and Jennifer, age 4.

CATAWBA FALLS BAPTIST CHURCH



REV. VIRGIL BRADBURN  
First Pastor



CATAWBA FALLS CHURCH

The Catawba Falls Baptist Church began as a Sunday School in 1934 which Mr. T.B. Faw organized and held in the school house at Catawba Falls. Catawba Falls was a mission of Old Fort Baptist Church (now First Baptist Church of Old Fort) for a number of years.

The church was organized September 21, 1954 and the church building was erected in that same year. The following were charter members: Georgia Brown, Loran Brown, Estelle Roland, Eula Parker, Will Allison, Mrs. George Butner, Georgia Galloway, Jack White, Pauline White, and Mildred Sawyers. They now have 39 members.

The following have served as Pastors:

Virgil Bradburn	Cecil Brown
Tull Hollifield	Buster King
Paul Pittman	Roy Branch
Henry Wheeler	John Church



**JOHN CHURCH**  
*Present Pastor*

Church Clerks that have served for Catawba Falls are: Mrs. Mildred Sawyers, Mrs. Estelle Roland, Ponnee Inman, Mrs. Georgia Galloway.

The present pastor, John Church is married to the former Lorene Hooper. He is employed at Drexel Furniture Company. He is a graduate of Glenwood High School. He served as a Deacon for seven years. He was called to preach in 1970 and became pastor at Catawba Falls June 30, 1974.

## MOUNT OLIVE BAPTIST CHURCH



**FIRST BUILDING**



**REV. WOODROW BROWN**  
*First Pastor*



**PRESENT BUILDING**



**REV. DALE CROWDER**  
*Present Pastor*

The Mount Olive Missionary Baptist Church was organized January 17, 1960 and joined Blue Ridge Baptist Association that same year. The following were Charter Members: Mrs. Sarah Godfrey, John Godfrey, Mrs. Lillian Bost, Mrs. Betty Lewis, Mrs. Willa Mae Williams, Mrs. Dewey Brown, Mrs. Viola Hensley, Mr. & Mrs. J.C. Kerley, Miss Gladys Ellison and Mrs. Mildred Webb. They now have a membership of 68.

Mount Olive held church services in a rented building for approximately 1 year and built their church in 1961 with additions in 1971 and in 1976.

The following have served as pastors:

Woodrow Brown	1960-1961
Paul Hyder	1961-1962
Ralph Greene	1962-1964
Cecil Brown	1964-1965
Clifford Burnett	1966-1978
Dale Crowder	1978

Church Clerks of Mount Olive: Mary Ann Brown, Doris Bost, Rena Shuford, Edith Johnson, Diane Allison, Kathleen Duyck, and Nell Brown.

Two preachers were sent out by the church to preach; Rev. Charles Duyck and Rev. J.C. Kerley.

The present pastor, Dale Crowder graduated from Enka High School in 1960. He was ordained by Fairview Baptist Church in July, 1975. Mount Olive is his first pastorate. Rev. Crowder and his wife have one son, Dale, Jr.

## GRANDVIEW BAPTIST CHURCH



**FIRST BUILDING**



**REV. MILLARD HALL**  
*First Pastor*



**GRANDVIEW BAPTIST CHURCH**  
*Present Building*



**REV. JERRY PARSONS**  
*Pastor*

The first Sunday of October 1948 was the beginning of what was to later be known as Grandview Baptist Church. In a house just off old highway #70, in the north Marion area, 16 people joined together for Sunday School. For approximately one year, these people and others continued having classes in the house and then moved in 1950 to the basement of Poteat's Store building. On September 14, 1960 the First Baptist Church of Marion purchased a home located at the present site of Grandview Baptist Church. This house was

used for the North Marion Mission until the church was organized on Sunday, May 26, 1968. The new building was completed December, 1968. Mission pastors were: Rev. L.G. Redding, Rev. Ned Duncan, Rev. Ray Hall, and Rev. Millard Hall. Joined Blue Ridge Association 1968.

The following have served as Pastors:

Millard Hall	1968-1973
Randolph Heavner	1973-1975
B.M. Strickland	Interim 1975-1976
Jerry Parsons	1976-

Charter Members were:

Paul Barnes, Sr.	Mary Greene	Mrs. James Ledbetter, Sr.
Esther Barnes	Martha Greene	James Ledbetter, Jr.
Catherine Barnes	Kathy Joy Greene	Mrs. L.G. Redding
Elaine Barnes	M.D. Ledbetter	Susan Lee Hall Good
Phylis Barnes	Lindsey Hutchins	Rev. Wray Hill
George Barnes	Kay McKinney	Mrs. Ruth Hill
Paul Barnes, Jr.	Lois Miller	Rose Greene
Danny Barnes	James Shehan, Sr.	Douglas Holland
Penny Barnes	Mary Shehan	Rev. Millard Hall
Ed Brown	James Shehan, Jr.	Eula Hall
Laura Brown	Leroy Silver	Douglas Barrier
Archie Greene	Alice Silver	Betty Barrier

Church Clerks:

Laura Brown	Martha Thomas	Rachel Biddix
Kathy Greene	Shelby Stroud	Sue Grindstaff

Jerry Parsons, the present pastor, was born in Sampson County, North Carolina. His wife is Patsy and they have one daughter, Jerri Ann. He attended Clinton High School. Graduated with class of '66. He attended Fruitland Baptist Bible Institute, graduated March, 1978. He is presently a student at Gardner-Webb College. Grandview is his first pastorate. He serves as Secretary-Treasurer of the Baptist Pastor's Conference and is a member of the Nominating Committee and Temperance & Morals Committee of the Blue Ridge Association. He is also Biblical Recorder Representative and in 1977 served on Committee on Committees.

# ASHWORTH ROAD BAPTIST CHURCH



**FIRST BUILDING AND  
FIRST PASTOR**  
*Rev. J.D. Plemmons*



**PRESENT BUILDING**

The Ashworth Road Baptist Church was organized January 18, 1970 and joined the Blue Ridge Association February 5, 1975. The thirty-three charter members were the following:

Rev. J.D. Plemmons	Peggy Webb
Mrs. J.D. Plemmons	Jeanie Webb
Donald Plemmons	Norris Jamison
Brenda Plemmons	Mrs. Norris Jamison
R. Eugene Seagle	Patricia Jamison
Mrs. R. Eugene Seagle	J.B. Seagle
Rhonda Seagle	Mrs. Eloise Morrow
Earl Webb	Mrs. Betty Ramsey
Mrs. Earl Webb	Cecil Webb
Sandra Webb	Mrs. Cecil Webb
Gary Webb	Henrietta Webb
Harold Webb	Bill Cook
Andy Webb	Christine Cook
Blake Webb	Donald Cook
J.C. Webb	Mrs. Donald Cook
Mrs. J.C. Webb	Lynn Webb
Steve Webb	



**REV. HOYT STILL**  
*Present Pastor*



**REV. T.B. DEESE**  
*Interim Pastor*

Ashworth Road now has a membership of 261. The present building was constructed in 1972 and a beautiful parsonage was built in 1975. Three preachers were sent out by the church: Jerry Parsons, Jay McCarson, and Clarence Correll.

The following have served as pastors at Ashworth Road:

J.D. Plemmons	1969-1973 and Sept. 1974
Charles Hollifield	Interim 1973
Jeff Alverson	1973-1974
Philip Broyles	1974-1977
Lloyd Gosnell	1977-1978
T.B. Deese	Interim 1978-1979
Hoyt Still	1979

Church clerks that have served: Mrs. Eugene Seagle, Mrs. C. Hollifield, Mrs. Mack McClure, Mr. Gray Morgan, Mrs. Troy Mace, and Mrs. Gary Morgan.

T.B. Deese, Interim pastor at Ashworth Road, was born in Union County, North Carolina on March 9, 1913, and grew up within three miles of Wingate Jr. College. On March 4, 1931, he married Virginia Taylor of Monroe, N.C. and they have three children: Mrs. Lavaughn D. Barbee, Mrs. Joyce D. Bridges, and a son Thomas E. Deese. Rev. Deese was converted May 29, 1935 and soon realized his call to preach and returned to school and finished Wingate College in June, 1944. While in college he served Mineral Springs Church as pastor, which was his first pastorate. Also during his college days, he served as pastor at Pleasant Plains and Midland Baptist Churches. Other churches he has pastored are: West Concord Baptist Church; Piedmont and Green Hill in Rutherfordton, N.C.; Calvin Heights, Morganton; Poston Church, Wallace, N.C.; Shady Brook, Charlotte; Hinson's Cross Roads, Fair Bluff, N.C. He now resides at Bridgewater about half-way between Marion and Morganton, N.C.

**PINEY GROVE BAPTIST CHURCH**



**PINEY GROVE BAPTIST CHURCH**



**REV. FRANKLIN JUSTICE**  
*Pastor*

The Piney Grove Baptist Church was organized October 19, 1975, with the following charter members: Fleming Burleson, Una Burleson, Bill Burleson, Karen Burleson, Jean Bivins, Gerald Edney, Erin Edwards, Joel Edwards, Dennis Johnson, Sandra Johnson, Arthur Jones, Ruby Jones, Harold Robinson, Nancy Robinson, Ed Rector, and Rev. Franklin Justice, Pastor. They now have 24 members.

The Piney Grove Church came under the watchcare of the association in October 1976, and became a full member in October 1977. The church clerk is Mrs. Harold Robinson.

The church was built in 1908 and used by the Methodist for many years. Three churches in the Old Fort Area were consolidated and the building was not used for a number of years. A group of people purchased the church and the property rather than have it torn down. In 1976 the church was remodeled. Land was also purchased for a cemetery.

Rev. Franklin Justice, the pastor, was born in Haywood County. His parents were Herman M. and Mary Lee Justice. His mother now lives in Charlotte. He came to live in Marion in 1930 and has lived here since. He was married in June 1935 to Carolyn Johnson of Old Fort. They have four daughters: Frances Beckendorf, Blue Earth, Minnesota; Nona Rhinehardt, Mary Alice Owensby, Judith Ann Webb, all who live in Marion.

He began his ministry in April 1937 and was licensed by East Marion Baptist Church in 1937 and was ordained in 1937. During his first year three churches that had been closed were reopened. They were Zion Hill, North Cove, Stone Mountain. He supplied a short time at North Cove. Zion Hill was reorganized and he was called as their pastor and also at Stone Mountain. He served at Stone Mountain two different times. Other churches he has served as Pastor: Laurel Hill, Harmony Grove, West Marion, Cherry Springs, Brookside, Parker's Chapel, Vance Avenue, Black Mountain, Dutch Cove at Canton, N.C., and presently at Piney Grove.



